

Eastern Jerusalem-based terror cell had easy time passing police, IDF roadblocks

BILL HUTMAN

THE Hamas cell uncovered Friday was made up entirely of eastern Jerusalem residents, to allow a freedom of operation which terror cells based in the territories do not have, security sources said last night.

With Israeli identity papers and yellow, Israeli-licensed cars, the gang's members had an easy time passing army and police roadblocks, the sources said.

The gang's leader, 22-year-old Iman Abu Halil, became a member of the Issadun Kassam military wing of Hamas last October.

He was given specific instructions by Hamas leaders to organize a cell based solely on Arab residents of Jerusalem, according to the sources. They said he was given a Kalashnikov and several pistols by a Hamas activist in the territories, which he brought to Jerusalem.

Five residents of the Beit Hanina and A-Ram neighborhoods of north Jerusalem eventually came under his command. The gang had a series of homes in Arab neighborhoods of eastern Jerusalem it used as hideouts.

Halil was not directly involved in the attempt to attack the Border Police officers at MK Ariel Sharon's Moslem Quarter home Friday.

Four other gang members under his command were in the vehicle stopped by police near the Old City, not far from Sharon's home.

But Halil was apparently in direct phone contact with the four as they started to launch their planned attack at around 4 a.m. Friday. A portable



Policeman Doron Cohen (right), wounded in Friday's shootout with Hamas terrorists, with his brother Gadi in Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

phone the four used was found in their bullet-ridden vehicle.

The sources said security forces and police detained Halil at around 11 a.m. at a hideout in the Sheikh Jarrah

neighborhood. Another gang member also not directly involved in the planned attack was detained at another hideout in eastern Jerusalem at around 2 p.m.

The Hamas terror cell uncovered over the weekend was involved in several attempts to kidnap soldiers at hitchhiking posts, the sources said. In April, the gang kidnapped Sec.

Lt. Shahr Simani as he hitchhiked in the Kiryat Malachi area. His body was found several days later abandoned alongside a side road in Beit Hanina.

Likud calls for early elections

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Likud has called for early elections, following reports over the weekend of a secret agreement with Syria that would include an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The party also called for legislation reinforcing Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said the Likud would oppose any withdrawal from the Golan, and demanded that the government expose any secret agreements it has with Syria concerning a withdrawal.

"All these contacts [with Syria] are extremely dangerous," said Netanyahu. "It is clear that they are talking about a full withdrawal from the Golan. For this we need the people's decision, and this must be done in elections."

The Likud's Knesset faction said that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's policy contradicts his pre-election promises.

"Rabin is deceiving the public in blatant violation of his promises not to withdraw from the Golan. He is leading to a complete withdrawal within a short time, without any security plans," the faction said in a statement.

Netanyahu also denied that any elements within the Likud would support withdrawal from the Golan.

The Likud, he said, "distinguishes between good and bad agreements. The agreement with Hussein is good, because it brings peace with security, but the agreement with the PLO is bad, as indicated by its leaders' statements concerning their desire to de-

stroy Israel. Rabin apparently cannot say 'no' and is rushing into agreements, both with the PLO and over the Golan, at any price."

Also, the Likud has begun gathering the number of signatures required to convene the Knesset's Law Committee during summer recess, to prepare legislation to reinforce Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Likud bureau chairman MK Uzi Landau, who initiated this move in reaction to Nabil Shaath's statements on turning Jerusalem into the Palestinian capital, wants the committee to discuss his amendment to the Jerusalem Law - which stipulates that any concessions or changes in Jerusalem's status would require a majority of more than 81 MKs.

The issue of Palestinian rights in Jerusalem aroused controversy within the government over the weekend. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said that reactions to Faisal Hussein's meetings in eastern Jerusalem, as well as the outrage and horror resulting from visits by Palestinian figures to Jerusalem, are "aggravated and hysterical."

Economics Minister Shimon Peres attacked Aloni for her role in the rights of eastern Jerusalem Arabs, saying the activity she referred to was in violation of government's policy and that if to Israel's hold on its capital, and Shereet said it was regretful, the-

in such a sensitive period, the country comes out in defense of Palestinians, instead of strengthening Israel's hold on eastern Jerusalem.

SLA searches for perpetrators of bomb attack

DAVID RUDGE

SCORES of South Lebanese Army soldiers conducted house-to-house searches in El-Khiyam village in the heart of the security zone yesterday after an attempted bomb attack on a senior SLA officer, news agencies reported.

According to reports from Lebanon, more than 60 soldiers as well as IDF security officers were involved in the searches for the perpetrators of the roadside bomb attack near the village on Friday night.

Hizbullah announced that Maj. Riyad Abdullah, commander of the El-Khiyam jail and a senior member of the SLA security apparatus, had been the target of the attack.

It was not clear last night, however, whether Abdullah or any other SLA officials had been killed or wounded in the blast, in which at least one vehicle was badly damaged.

Military sources remained tight-lipped about the incident, although there was confirmation that a road-

side bomb had been detonated alongside a vehicle somewhere between El-Khiyam village and the nearby jail where over 250 Lebanese are reported to be held for alleged involvement with Hizbullah or other hostile organizations.

Regardless of the outcome of the attack, the fact that Hizbullah was able to penetrate so deeply into the zone to plant an explosive device is in itself a major blow to IDF and SLA security.

If, as Hizbullah claimed, Abdullah was the intended target, it also shows a high degree of intelligence gathering on the part of the extremist Shi'ite organization.

Even more worrying is the fact that Hizbullah activists almost certainly received assistance - either in the form of intelligence gathering or in planning the bomb itself - from local

residents. It could also indicate what has been feared for some time: that there are leaks within the ranks of the SLA itself.

Hizbullah has made clear its intention to hit SLA soldiers, especially those in senior and sensitive positions, and has stated on more than one occasion that no member of the SLA is safe from its "long reach."

These attacks, in addition to ongoing operations against IDF and SLA targets in the zone, appear to be aimed at undermining the SLA and its ties with Israel generally, as well as lowering the morale of the force and trying to win over "converts."

Residents of the zone are already concerned about what is likely to happen to the region and themselves in particular in the event of an Israel-Syria peace accord and an IDF withdrawal from the zone.

Israel has already made one of its conditions for any withdrawal - in the event of a peace accord with Lebanon - that guarantees be given regarding the personal safety and well-being of residents of the zone and SLA members and their families in particular.

It was probably for these reasons that the IDF, according to news agency reports, invited reporters in the zone to attend the firing of special Wolf rockets towards open areas north of the zone late last week.

According to a report on Channel Two news, the rockets carry formidable 500 kilogram warheads. Nevertheless, the report said the somewhat cumbersome rockets had only a limited range and were quite old, having been used as far back as the Six Day War, as well as during the Lebanon War.

Veteran Lebanese observers said it appeared the aim was to display the rockets as a potential answer to Hizbullah's Katyushas.

'Hussein plans Al-Aksa visit Friday'

DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON

JORDAN'S King Hussein is planning to attend prayers at Al-Aksa Mosque on Friday to mark Mawlid an-Nabawi, the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Mohammed, according to the London-based daily newsletter *Mideast Mirror*.

The newsletter's Jordan correspondent quotes sources in Amman as saying Hussein would make a "private, unofficial visit" to underscore the fact that he "does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem."

To reinforce the point, the sources said that while Hussein will be accompanied by members of his family, his party will not include officials.

The sources also noted that the king would be received by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, but not by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin or other government officials.

The king will travel to Jerusalem by helicopter which will, according to the sources, land "near the mosque."

The visit is expected to further exacerbate tensions between the PLO and Jordan, which was granted a "special role" over the Moslem holy places in the Washington Declaration that was signed by Rabin and Hussein last month.

In an apparent attempt to limit the damage, the sources stressed that the visit "does not reflect any change in Jordan's position on the need for Israel to withdraw from East Jerusalem in keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 242."

The Washington Declaration, added the sources, was no more than a "recognition of the status quo" under which Jordan takes care of the Moslem holy places.

The London-based newsletter also reported that Palestinian official Faisal Hussein, who visited Amman last week for talks on relations between Jordan and Israel, was not received by Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan or any senior Jordanian officials.

In a related development, Jordanian commentator Fahd Faneh accused the Palestinians of attempting to drag the Saudis into the dispute over Jerusalem.

Writing in the Jordanian paper *al-Rai* on Friday, Faneh said the PLO had called on Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to pump \$42 million a year into Jerusalem - a sum that could not be

matched by Jordan - ostensibly to "rehabilitate houses in the city so they would not be deserted by their inhabitants."

"The PLO might be trying to bring him into the matter just to spite Jordan," wrote Faneh.

In a carefully modulated article, he noted that Jordan "is not demanding anything new but only safeguarding the role it has played through the ages [Moslem religious trusts] since 1967."

"The PLO's claim to Jerusalem states it hopes to establish a state every support from Jordan and all the Arabs," he wrote.

"But its recent objection to Jordan's role in guarding the holy sites does not make sense because the PLO has agreed to postpone discussion of the political status of Jerusalem for two to five years and it will not be harmed if Jordan continues to guard the holy places at least during this period."

He added that "the present Jordanian role is not at the expense of the PLO, self-rule or the political fate of Jerusalem."

Husseini: PLO involved in settling disputes among Jerusalem's Arab residents

BILL HUTMAN

FAISAL Hussein, in charge of PLO affairs in Jerusalem, confirmed for the first time over the weekend that PLO officials in the city worked to "resolve troubles" between the city's Arab residents.

"I don't believe that it is true," Hussein said, however, of reports that Palestinian security officials operated in Jerusalem.

"But there are problems, like conflicts between families, that are being solved. ... All these things are nothing new. We have done them before."

Husseini declined to comment on the story uncovered in Friday's *Post* of the arrests by Palestinian security officials of two Moslem men allegedly involved in an attack on Christian

residents in the Old City.

The two have been held in jail in Jericho since the incident three weeks ago, according to Palestinian sources. Their families have not been allowed to speak with them, the sources said.

A senior aide to Hussein, Abed Abu Diyab, was involved in helping reach a truce between the Moslem and Christian families involved in the incident, the sources added.

The activities of Palestinian security officials in Jerusalem are presently under police investigation, according to the Jerusalem police spokesman.

The matter has also been referred to the Police Ministry, in the hope government officials will demand that PLO leaders halt the activity.

Kuwait turns down invite to TA trade fair

KUWAIT (AP) - Israel has extended its first public invitation to Kuwait to attend a trade fair, but an official said yesterday the emirate would not respond to the offer.

"Of course we will not answer it," said Mohammad al-Ruzouki, sales manager of the government-controlled Kuwait International Fair Company, which received the invitation. "Kuwait still abides by the boycott rules."

Despite Kuwait's support for the peace process, it abides by the Arab League's boycott of Israel.

However, it no longer blacklists foreign firms that deal with Israel, many of which it needs to help in its reconstruction following the Gulf War.

Al-Ruzouki said the invitation from the Israeli Trade Fairs and Convention Center was faxed to his company on Monday. The exhibit, Modern Living 94, is to open in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

Al-Ruzouki would not provide a copy of the invitation, but according to excerpts from it published in the local *Arab Times* daily, the letter cited a "new spirit" of "negotiations, harmony and peace" in the Middle East.

"There is a window of opportunity to create a better Middle East, for the benefit of all the peoples and nations of the region," it said.

Al-Ruzouki said the letter was referred to the Ministry of Commerce.

Jordan denies that Prince Talal visited here

AMMAN (AP) - The royal palace on Friday denied that King Hussein's nephew visited Israel to discuss with Ashdod Port for Jordanian imports and exports.

A palace spokesman said the report published in Israel was "baseless and fabricated."

"Neither Prince Talal nor any other member of the royal family visited Israel," the spokesman told The Associated Press.

There were reports Thursday that Prince Talal, King Hussein's military secretary, met with Zvi Zilker, mayor of Ashdod, and other Israeli officials.

Some newspapers published photos of what they said was Prince

Talal, who reportedly told the mayor that Jordan was keen on securing a separate 400-dunam section of the port for Jordanian trade.

But officials close to the palace said the photos showed Talal Halawani, a Jordanian trader who was on a business trip to Israel.

One official said Halawani "was tricked into meeting with the Israeli mayor, who thought the man was Prince Talal."

"An Israeli company had a dispute with the mayor and it apparently wanted to embarrass him," the official said without elaboration.

Halawani was not immediately available for comment.

Palestinian delegations go to Amman, Cairo

THE Palestinian Authority will send a team to Amman to discuss ties strained by the recent warming of relations between Israel and Jordan, a senior official said yesterday.

"The Palestinian Authority has decided to send a high level delegation to Jordan... to discuss with Jordanian officials bilateral relations and detailed discussions on issues in all spheres including tourism, education, health and communication," said general secretary, Tayeb Abdel-Rahim.

Nabil Shaath, in charge of planning for the authority, said the delegation would travel to Amman later this week. Another delegation will visit Cairo, headquarters of the Arab League, where it would ask Arab states to honor new Palestinian passports and other official documents, Shaath added.

A Palestinian source said the visit to Amman could be followed by a meeting between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Jordan's King Hussein. (Reuters)

Ben-Eliezer: No formal contacts being held with Iraq

HOUSING Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, reacting to a report about an Iraqi peace initiative, yesterday denied that Israel and Iraq are engaging in formal contacts.

"I would say unequivocally, no," said Ben-Eliezer in response to a question on Army Radio about contacts between the two countries.

"I cannot say that third or fourth string representatives from our side... at one party or another did not exchange a word or two with the Iraqis but if this means contacts or an initiative exists between the two countries, my answer is negative," he said.

Israel Television reported Friday night that Iraq had expressed readiness to discuss peace with Israel.

The report said Iraq relayed a message to Israel through a third party saying it no longer had a dispute with Israel now that the Palestinian problem was about to be resolved.

It said the message, written by a senior Iraqi official, was delivered to UN Ambassador Gad Yacobi three months ago.

Asked if such a message was received, Ben-Eliezer, himself Iraqi-born, said: "In my opinion, no."

According to the report, Israel ignored the initiative on instructions from the US.

It said, however, that some officials, including cabinet ministers, support open contacts with Iraq.

Iraq's government, still under punitive international sanctions imposed after its troops invaded Kuwait just over four years ago, has not officially criticized agreements signed by Israel with the PLO and Jordan.

Iraq has traditionally opposed Middle East peace efforts and was at the forefront of criticism of the Camp David accords.

Iraq has given no public hint of any overtures towards Israel. Iraq on Thursday rebuked Jordan's Information Minister Jawad Anani for suggesting Iraq could play an important role in the Middle East peace process.

The Iraqi news agency INA said Iraq's Culture and Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi had "expressed his astonishment and regret" over comments by Anani on Israel Radio five days earlier. (Reuters)

PLO to co-administer border crossings

ISRAEL and the PLO said on Friday they would jointly administer international crossings from Gaza and Jericho to Egypt and Jordan.

The chief Palestinian negotiator with Israel, Nabil Shaath, and Police Minister Moshe Shahal toured the Rafiah passenger terminal on the border with Egypt and announced measures to improve travel across the border.

"I am very happy that all of you are here so you can see the start of the real change in this crossing," said Shaath, who is also a member of the Palestinian Authority, at a joint news conference with Shahal.

"On Sunday a week from this Sunday, the Palestinian side will take (charge of) the Palestinian wing of this crossing," he said.

Israeli officials, now administering the border crossing alone, briefed the two officials on the new arrangements, including plans to double the Israeli staff who process passports and inspect baggage.

Shahal also referred to upcoming

changes at the terminal but did not mention details.

Under the May self-rule accord, signed in Cairo by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Israel retains overall control of the border crossings but divides responsibility for passengers between Israel and the PLO.

The sides agreed to divide the terminals, where the PLO will run a section designated for Palestinian residents of Gaza and Jericho and visitors to the self-rule areas.

Israel will administer the other section designated for Israelis and visitors to the rest of the territories and to Israel.

Shahal said about 100 Palestinian officials, including policemen, passport inspectors and tax officials, would take over the Palestinian section of the terminals as of August 21.

He said the two sides have agreed to build another terminal in Rafiah within six months that would be able to handle five times the current capacity. (Reuters)

One killed, 19 hurt in weekend road accidents

BILL HUTMAN and Itim

ONE person was killed and 19 people injured, two seriously, in road accidents yesterday.

Nashaf Husani, 24, of Taiba, was killed yesterday afternoon near the town, when his car crashed head-on into a bus.

A preliminary investigation showed that Husani had swerved into the path of the bus, and the bus driver could not avoid him.

The 19 were hurt when a tourist bus crashed head-on with a private vehicle near Jerusalem's Old City, police said.

The injured were evacuated by Magen David Adom ambulances and private cars to Hadassah-University

Hospital, Ein Kerem and Mokassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives.

The accident occurred at around 3 p.m. in the Wadi Joz neighborhood, in eastern Jerusalem. A police spokeswoman said last night the accident was still being investigated.

Also yesterday, three people were lightly injured when the motor of their boat exploded as they were sailing off the coast of Eilat.

The boat was carrying four adults and four children, who all jumped overboard. They were rescued by a police patrol boat. Three of the adults were treated for scratches at Yosefat Hospital.

The boat was destroyed by the fire.

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UN working on contingency plans to leave Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AP) — UN peacekeepers are making contingency plans for withdrawal in case Washington moves ahead with plans to end an arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia.

"If the arms embargo is lifted in October, the UN is likely to withdraw from Bosnia," UN spokesman Michael Williams said Friday.

President Clinton has set an Oct. 15 deadline for Bosnian Serbs to accept a peace plan. If they don't, the United States will ask the United Nations to exempt the Bosnian government from the UN arms embargo.

This would allow Washington to sell arms to the Muslim-led government, which has been badly outgunned by the Serbs throughout the 28-month war. That would almost certainly mean more fighting.

"We are peacekeeping forces, and up till now there's been any peace to be kept," Williams said. "It would be even worse with the flare-up in fighting."

The push to end the embargo follows the Serbs' rejection of the latest peace plan. Fighting has since escalated, a Sarajevo cease-fire in place since February is growing shaky and peacekeepers have been repeatedly challenged.

Serb officials met with the UN commander for Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, and civil affairs chief Viktor Andrejev and the two sides agreed to sign an anti-sniping accord today, UN spokeswoman Claire Grines said.

UN officials also got permission to send supply convoys to peacekeepers in the eastern Muslim enclaves of Zepa, Srebrenica and Gorazde, which are surrounded by Serb-held territory.

UN officials said withdrawing the peacekeepers would take at least three months and could prove difficult. Any decision to withdraw would be made by countries contributing troops, Williams said.

France, the largest contributor with 4,000 peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, has said it would go along with Washington's push despite problems that could arise for peacekeepers.

"Withdrawal is a very difficult operation, especially when the population, whom we are here for, is not in favor," said Maj. Rob Amink, a spokesman for UN peacekeepers.

He referred in particular to the three eastern enclaves where peacekeepers are the only guarantee of food and essential aid, and the main deterrent to takeover by surrounding Serbs.

In March 1993, the then-commander of UN forces in Bosnia, Gen. Philippe Morillon, was held virtual hostage in Srebrenica by civilians terrified of Serb attacks if he left.

In other developments Friday:

—Bosnian Serbs again seized a heavy weapon from a UN-monitored collection site in a NATO-mandated weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo. They later returned it, said UN spokesman Maj. Dacre Holloway.

Serb seizure of five weapons under UN control last week led to a NATO air strike against an aging Serb anti-tank weapon inside the 20-kilometer (12.5-mile) zone.

Later, Holloway said peacekeepers had reports of a 122mm Serb mortar moving near Visoko, north of Sarajevo, just inside the zone. He said a 122mm Serb howitzer fired five rounds from inside the zone Thursday night.

—The United States pledged \$300,000 to help seriously sick and wounded Bosnians who are waiting to be evacuated for medical treatment abroad, the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration said. The group, which runs the program, said 933 Bosnians have been evacuated for medical care during the past year.



Rwandan refugee children scramble for loose beans at a food distribution center near Goma, Zaire, yesterday.

UN declares new Rwandan exodus

PETER SMERDON
KIGALI

THE United Nations said a new Rwandan refugee exodus was under way in southwestern Rwanda yesterday and estimated at least a million people would flood into eastern Zaire in a week.

Five thousand refugees left the west Rwandan town of Kibuye at the northern edge of the French-held "safe zone" in southwest Rwanda on Friday and the flow was continuing, UN and aid agency officials said.

The refugees were heading south for the border town of Cyangugu, just inside Rwanda across from the east Zairean town of Bukavu, which is poorly prepared for a massive influx.

Refugees around the town of Gikongoro, on the eastern edge of the safe zone, were also packing up and starting to trek towards Bukavu ahead of a French troop withdrawal by August 22.

The movement has started and (UN) Ambassador (Shahyar) Khan says we'll be lucky if only 50 percent of the people move to Bukavu," said Emery Brueset, spokesman for the UN Rwanda Emergency Office (UNREO).

Khan is UN special representative to Rwanda and from yesterday would chair a daily task force meeting to set up a strategy for the new crisis in the southwest, Brueset said.

"We are looking at one million people crossing the border (into Bukavu) in the coming week," said Brueset, adding that the UN planned to try to reassure refugees through an increased international aid agency presence in the southwest.

The ousted former Rwandan government in exile in Zaire is urging the refugees, displaced in their own country by war and killings, to leave. The ousted officials say the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) will kill them if they return to their homes.

The new Rwandan government in Kigali, approved by the RPF, is campaigning with UN approval to coax the refugees back.

Chris Janowsky, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Rwandan capital Kigali, told reporters that 5,000 refugees had crossed the bridge linking Cyangugu to Bukavu on Friday.

Only hundreds were crossing the bridge daily before Friday.

UNHCR estimates there are 700,000 displaced in the zone.

"The priority is security and that really is a political question. At the moment as humanitarian agencies we have a strong feeling we cannot influence the movement of population," Brueset said.

The French medical aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said 150 people were moving on Friday for each km of the road from Kibuye to Cyangugu.

MSF spokeswoman Samantha Bolton said MSF Rwandan staff in Kibuye were demanding to be paid on a daily basis apparently because they were preparing to leave before the French pullout.

The UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) and aid agencies have struggled for a week to avert the new tide into Zaire only four weeks after nearly one million Rwandans stampeded over the border and swamped the Zairean town of Goma.

Aid workers say that Bukavu, like Goma, will probably prove to be a disease-ridden death ground for the Rwandan refugees.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officials in Gikongoro said on Friday that between 10,000 and 20,000 people had started moving westwards on the road to Cyangugu.

"It's clear there is a movement of people which has been picking up in the last two days," said ICRC spokeswoman Nina Winquist in Goma, where 850,000 refugees are living in camps ravaged by dysentery, cholera and other diseases.

Aid workers say many of the Hutu refugees were involved in the massacre of more than 500,000 members of the Tutsi minority and Hutu opponents of the former government during the three-month civil war which started last April. They fear reprisals if they return to RPF-held areas.

UN troops are taking over from the French in the zone but refugees said they would leave because they feared a UN force could not provide as strong security as the French (Reuters)

NATO's Woerner dies at 59

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, who led the Western alliance through the end of the Cold War, died yesterday after a long battle with cancer.

A spokesman for the 16-nation Western alliance said Woerner, 59, had died at his home in Brussels at 1130 GMT.

"The Secretary-General died today," he said. No further details were immediately available.

Woerner's death raises difficult questions for the alliance about who should succeed him, at a time when NATO is deeply involved in Bosnia and in trying to build greater security for Europe. His robust leadership was widely respected.

Woerner, the first German to head the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) since it was founded in 1949 to counter Soviet military power in Europe, had taken the summer months off to recover from a series of operations for cancer of the colon.

But he wrote to the allies recently saying he intended to return to his post next month. His mandate ran out in mid-1994.

NATO sources said allied ambassadors would probably meet in the near future to discuss a possible successor.

"We are involved in a lot of issues and we need leadership soon. There cannot be a vacuum for long," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

Woerner, a lawyer and trained fighter pilot, served as West German defense minister during much of the 1980s before he took the NATO job in 1988.

His sometimes brash and aggressive style won him some enemies as he struggled with the huge task of reshaping the alliance's military and political structures so that it could remain relevant following decades of East-West confrontation.

While he led the way in offering a new age of cooperation to the former Soviet bloc, Woerner was greatly disappointed by what he considered the West's failure to take a tougher line on the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

As he struggled with the difficult security issues facing Europe after the collapse of communism, Woerner also had to fight cancer of the colon — a battle that cost him his life.

Within three years of taking the job, Woerner saw the Soviet Union's satellites in Eastern Europe discard communism, the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the signing of a landmark European arms accord and a major war in the Gulf against Iraq.

His own country absorbed former communist East Germany, bringing it under NATO's protective umbrella. The alliance forged new diplomatic and military links with its old enemies, restructured its forces and rewrote its strategy.

Woerner made ground-breaking visits to Moscow and other Eastern European capitals but remained committed to coherent Western defenses as an "insurance policy" against instability.

Woerner fell seriously ill with cancer of the colon in 1992 but continued to maintain a punishing work schedule.

Clinton seeks to reverse crime setback

WASHINGTON (AP) — Determined to reverse a major setback on anti-crime legislation, President Clinton challenged lawmakers with a blunt reminder that their return to Congress this year may depend on meeting demands for a safer America.

"The time has come... to say that the only way for Congress to make their seats safe is to make the rest of America safer," Clinton said, castigating House of Representatives members for shelving the crime bill in the worst defeat of his presidency.

Opposition Republicans, anxious to avoid blame for killing the legislation, asked Clinton to meet with them to craft a compromise.

Congressional leaders set out yesterday to revive the \$33 billion measure. They talked about changing its controversial ban on assault-style weapons fought by the gun lobby and cutting some crime-prevention spending projects opposed by others.

"The Republicans are ready to cooperate" and work with the Democrats, said Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole. House Republican Whip Newt Gingrich said Clinton "ought to get off the attack policy."

That didn't stop the president from deploying a score of cabinet secretaries and staffers to lobby at the Capitol. Then he carried his own attack to a police convention in Minneapolis. Accompanying him on the presidential jetliner were some big-city mayors of both parties who have been counting on federal financing of added police personnel.

"We are going to get you a crime bill," Clinton assured a sea of police officers in a hastily arranged appearance. "Washington cannot walk away from you."

The president, his voice strained from overuse, accused legislators of caving in to special interests.

Clinton said those who voted to block the crime package in Thursday night's 225-210 procedural vote had "decided that their political security was more important than the personal security of the American people."

"Before this fight is over they're going to learn the only way to make their seats safe is to make America's neighborhoods safer."

House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt said Friday the House would take up the crime bill again late next week.

House Speaker Thomas Foley added that he believed the Democratic majority would "put this bill over the top," even though Congress has not passed an election-year crime bill since 1988.

Gephardt said he thought the assault-style weapons ban might have to be reworded to pass the bill, but Clinton seems determined to keep it.

Rep. Charles Schumer, chief House advocate of the ban, and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, agreed that the ban must be retained in any new bill.

Among items criticized by Republicans and some Democrats who joined them was spending for a criminal justice research center in a senior congressman's home district and for night basketball programs to lure inner city youngsters from street crime.

Two of the mayors accompanying Clinton, Philadelphia Democrat Ed Rendell and New York Republican Rudolph Giuliani, disputed the idea that this was wasteful. Midnight basketball leagues have produced results, they said.

At least 143 Congolese die in church stampede

BRAZZAVILLE (Reuters) — At least 143 Congolese, mostly children, were killed when panic swept through a huge crowd of Roman Catholics gathered near the capital Brazzaville hoping to see a miracle.

Brazzaville hospitals emergency services worked through the night to bring the dead and injured out of the church of Saint-Pierre Claver.

Witnesses said about 50,000 Catholics massed at the church on the outskirts of the capital for a faith-healing rally on Friday evening.

Radio advertisements had promised that a local preacher, Abbot Isidore Malonga, would work miracles. Most of the congregation were children.

A sudden downpour led to a surge in the crowd pressing inside and outside the church, witnesses said. As people lost their footing they were trampled and suffocated to death.

State radio played funeral music and appeals for blood donors.

President Pascal Lissouba, who chaired an emergency cabinet meeting during the night, visited the injured in Brazzaville's main hospital early yesterday.

Most of the central African country's three million people are Roman Catholics.

Radio reports said most of the dead were children.

US to turn to allies in attempt to resolve Korea nuclear conflict

GENEVA (Reuters) — The United States and North Korea took a big step yesterday towards final resolution of the confrontation over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear arms program.

An outline agreement leaves Washington with the task of persuading its allies to support and bankroll the multi-billion transformation of North Korea's graphite nuclear power program to a safer — but much more expensive — light-water system.

The United States will also have to find an interim source of alternative power, probably oil, to compensate the North Koreans for agreeing to freeze constructions of two graphite reactors already nearing completion.

After a night of on-off negotiations in Geneva during which Pyongyang appeared to raise objections with a draft accord, both sides conceded that the deal was by no means final.

The agreement itself, released in the form of an "agreed statement," listed a number of "important issues" that experts from the two sides will tackle before the next round of high-level talks begins in Geneva on September 23.

Chief among them is what to do with some 8,000 spent uranium fuel rods extracted from a reactor at Yongbyon in May and since kept submerged in a cooling pond.

The United States, which believes Pyongyang could gain enough plutonium for five nuclear warheads if it reprocesses the uranium rods, failed in Geneva to get the North Koreans to agree to ship them abroad for reprocessing.

The North did agree not to reprocess them, but decided to keep them in the pond despite experts' fears that the rods are corroding and could soon pose a radiation risk.

"Although our talks have been worthwhile, the lion's share of the work remains ahead of us," US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, who headed his country's delegation, told a news conference.

"These discussions have served to show how much remains to be done," he added.

After only a few hours sleep, Gallucci left for Washington yesterday to prepare to enlist the support of the United States' Asian allies and other major world powers for the deal.

He said his task was to put together a "consortium" of nations willing to finance and assist in the building of the light-water reactors in North Korea.

The United States has pledged to arrange for a number of reactors producing a total of 2,000 megawatts of power, which Gallucci said would probably mean two reactors being built. He agreed with a reporter's suggestion that the project would cost around \$4 billion dollars.

Gallucci said he had already begun consultations with Seoul and Tokyo — who are expected largely to pay for the operation — and with Moscow and Beijing — who have the technology needed.

The major issue to be decided among the countries of the new consortium is who will actually provide the reactors.

South Korea has offered to do so itself, but North Korea remains reluctant for political reasons to accept that offer and diplomats say Pyongyang has instead pushed for Russian technology with which it is already familiar.

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Woodstock '94 is unmistakably modern

WOODSTOCK '94 was the city that never slept, with thousands of people dancing at an all-night "rave" at the outdoor rock 'n' roll festival 150 km north of New York City.

Pulsating electronic music, a sort of high-tech psychedelia, was a distinct 1990s twist in the weekend concert that recalls but doesn't mimic its predecessor of 25 years ago.

"In a rave, the rawest of raw feelings come out," explained Kevin Byrne of Santa Cruz, California. "Some people say you can reach a techno shamanistic stage because of the rapid beats from all of the over-sampling."

Nobody wanted to be fashionably late to Woodstock. The crowd swelled to an estimated 200,000 yesterday morning, straining the carefully laid plans of the rock festival's organizers.

The instant city suffered its first death shortly before midnight. A 45-year-old man, whose name was not released, collapsed in a field and was taken by helicopter to Benedictine Hospital in Kingston, New York.

A mixture of prescription drugs and alcohol is suspected, said state police Sgt. Joe Cervini.

By 3 a.m., more than 400 people had been brought in to an on-site

DAVID BAUDER
SAUGERTIES, N.Y.

hospital, most with minor injuries like broken bones or asthma attacks, said Kathy Yanas, hospital spokeswoman. Several were treated for drugs and alcohol complications.

"We've been busy tonight," Yanas said.

Woodstock parking lots throughout the region were jammed, prompting officials to close some local roads and shut down nearby exits on the New York State Thruway to all but local traffic.

Ticket sales for the festival were cut off Friday to keep more people from trying to show up.

"If you don't have a ticket, stay home," said R.W. Groneman, state emergency office spokesman. Festival promoters hoped to find additional parking after daylight for ticket-holders camped throughout the region, waiting to get to the festival site.

Camping space inside was so scarce that people were knocking down the fences to hunt for places to pitch their tents in woods outside the festival.

"They're breaking out instead of breaking in," said state police Sgt.

Brian Van Houghton.

Near the stage, the music was loud enough to rattle ravers' chests. Wild patterns, including a pulsing jagged line resembling a cardiac machine gone haywire, washed over two huge television screens.

High-powered spotlights lent an eerie blue glow to skies over the 350 hectares of meadows and woods two hours north of New York City. At 1 a.m., the Violent Femmes rock band was performing on one stage, while the techno band The Orbital helped kick off the rave on the other stage.

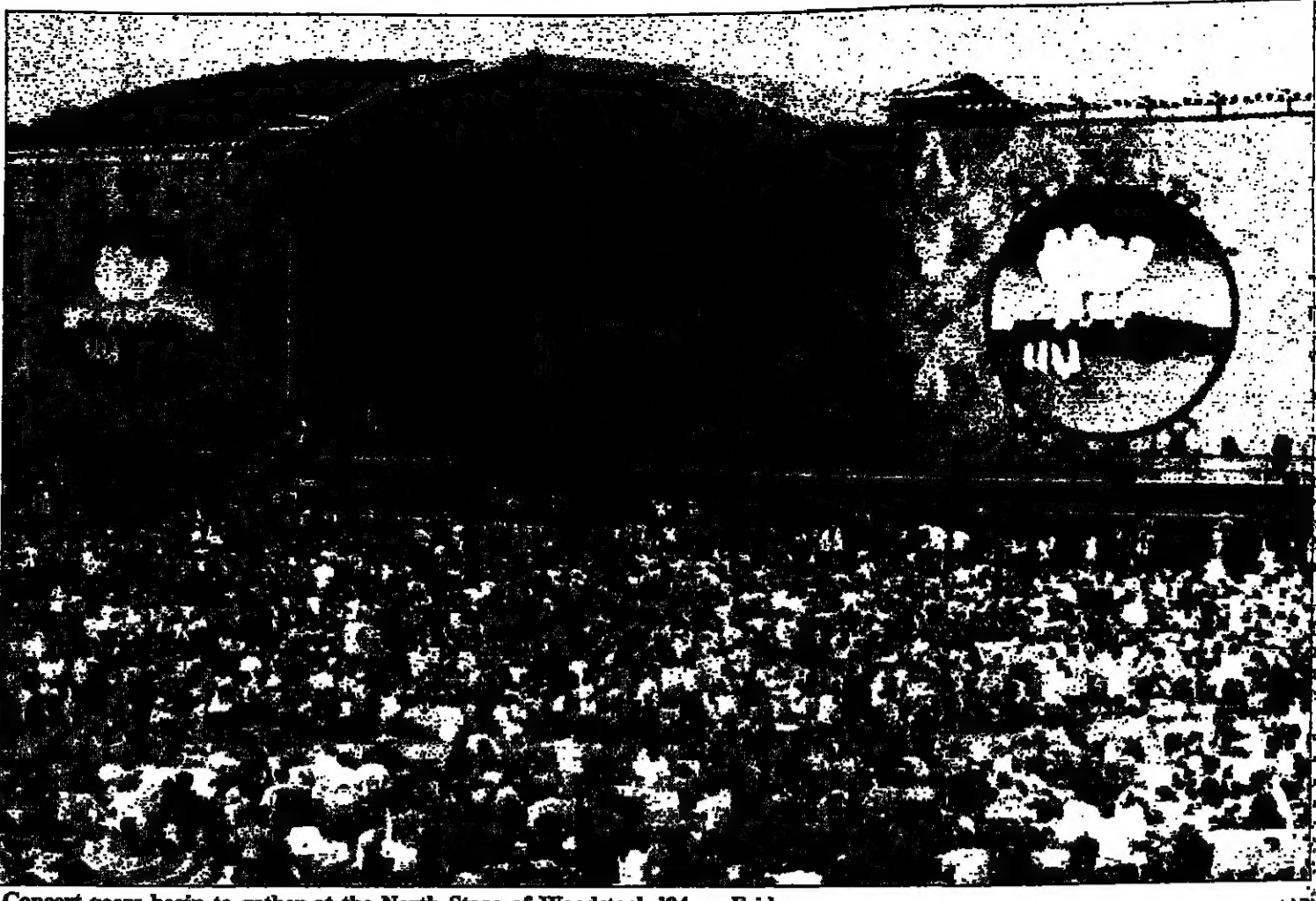
"This is our Woodstock. This is our music," said Johnna Miller of Washington, D.C. "What Woodstock was in 1969, this rave is for us."

The main part of the concert hadn't even begun: Joe Cocker was to open a lineup of 15 acts at noon.

Still, some fans appeared determined to avoid sleep — even if they needed chemicals to help them.

John Silvers, 22, of Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, proudly showed the two bottles of rum he had hidden in a pillow to conceal from security.

"We want to see everything," Silvers said. "We want to enjoy it. We've got our whole lives to sleep. Actually, when we're dead we'll sleep." (AP)



Concert-goers begin to gather at the North Stage of Woodstock '94 on Friday.

(AP)

NZ government holds majority by whisker

CHRISTCHURCH (Reuters) — New Zealand's conservative government clung to its majority by a whisker yesterday by edging out the left-wing Alliance in a tense vote for a vacant parliamentary seat.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger's National Party held the seat of Selwyn by just 346 votes from the Alliance to keep its majority of one seat in the 99-member legislature.

A defeat for National would have created a hung parliament and the possibility of an early general election — an outcome that Bolger had declared would be politically destabilizing and damaging for financial markets and the economy.

"New Zealand's the winner tonight. We now can have stable government and get on with the growth, the expansion of the economy," he said in a television interview.

Politicians and political commentators said the closeness of the result, despite the buoyant state of the economy, was a sign that many voters distrust the government's policies on health reform, education and the welfare state.

"I believe in the health reforms, I think they're on the right track, but I don't think the people are getting the message," victorious National candidate David Carter said.

"There's obviously still a lot of anger out there towards the government, I think particularly on social policy issues," political scientist Raymond Miller said.

The main feature of the result was

the collapse of Labor's vote. It trailed in third with just 10 percent of the vote, down from 37 percent at the last election in November.

Labor leader Helen Clark, battling to assert her authority over a divided party and beset by criticism of her management style, blamed the outcome on tactical voting.

Alliance leader Jim Anderton said the voters of Selwyn "have given a lead to New Zealand and put National on notice that their days in government are numbered."

He added: "We are the alternative government of New Zealand. The people of Selwyn have told us that."

The result means National has 50 seats in parliament, with the Labor Party on 45 and the Alliance and populist New Zealand First on two each.

Although Labor is easily the second biggest party, the Alliance has built up strong momentum and opinion polls show Anderton is the man most New Zealanders would prefer to see as prime minister.

Shares and the New Zealand dollar had fallen in the week before the poll as the Alliance mounted a strong late challenge.

Under National governments since 1990, New Zealand has emerged strongly from a deep recession and the economy grew by 5.3 percent in the year to March.

But many voters still feel bruised by the past decade of economic reform and welfare state cuts, and recovery has been slow.

French voters back crackdown on Moslem Algerian militants

FRANCOIS RAITBERGER
PARIS

MOST French voters back a crackdown on Algerian militants in France and feel Paris should pull out of the troubled North African country rather than risk fresh attacks from Moslem terrorists, a survey said yesterday.

The poll was published in the newspaper *Le Parisien* as police took their extensive week-old controls to the Paris metro and detained more suspected militants of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Police squads swept through the main stations of Paris's tourist-packed underground train network overnight, checking the identity of more than 1,000 people and holding 56 people for questioning.

More than 20,000 people have been checked in Paris alone in a week since headline interior Minister Charles Pasqua ordered the crackdown following the killing of five French government workers in Algiers by Moslem fundamentalists.

Pasqua has interned 23 suspected Algerian fundamentalists at a disused army camp in the village of Folembray northeast of Paris.

Justice sources said six others were formally placed under investigation for helping the FIS. Four of them were being held in Paris on suspicion

of financing arms or helping forge identity papers. Two students were detained in the northern city of Rouen for trying to smuggle weapons.

In a development linked to the crackdown, a headline Turkish imam (Moslem preacher) accused of calling for violence against Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was detained in the eastern town of Sochaux and placed on a flight to Ankara within hours on Friday night, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

The crackdown has been criticized by most human rights groups and some police unionists as more spectacular than useful. They argue it could sour relations between France and its four-million Moslems.

But the CSA survey in *Le Parisien* said 57 percent of French voters believed street controls and arrests of suspected fundamentalists were an efficient deterrent. It said 34 percent of sceptics said the action was intended to impress the media.

A majority of 54 percent believed France should pull out of Algeria and let it sort out its crisis on its own, to 34 percent who believed France

should stay in its former colony.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has said France wants to maintain its presence in Algeria where more than 4,000 people have died in political violence since the government in January 1992 cancelled a general election that the FIS was poised to win.

Fifteen French nationals have been murdered in the North African country by suspected Islamic terrorists who last year told foreigners to leave or face death.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the military wing of the FIS, has threatened to retaliate against the arrests in France.

Another violent group, the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), warned of fresh violence against French interests unless Paris, among other conditions, ended its support to the army-backed Algerian government and pulled all its citizens out of Algeria.

The GIA claimed the murder of five Frenchmen earlier this month in Algiers, but Pasqua has played down the risk of attacks in France.

Juppe has said Paris's support for the army-backed Algerian government was conditional on its progress towards democracy and has called for fresh elections when conditions permit. (Reuters)

US defense secretary staunch advocate of 'coercive diplomacy'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Introducing a new phrase into the post-Cold War vocabulary, US Defense Secretary William Perry says the Clinton administration is applying "coercive diplomacy" to would-be foes in Korea, Bosnia and Haiti.

The threat of force, combined with other tactics such as embargoes, sanctions and diplomatic efforts, can bring positive results short of war, Perry said.

"I want to emphasize that phrase. In coercive diplomacy, we're trying to force an action through sanctions, even through the threat of military force," Perry said in a taped television interview yesterday. "But when you make the threat, you have to be prepared to carry it out."

Perry divided up the issue of foreign troop commitments into three categories: vital national interests, involving such areas as US-Russian relations and the situation in Korea; national interests in places such as Haiti and Bosnia, and humanitarian efforts such as in Rwanda.

Against North Korea, Perry said, coercive diplomacy based on the presence of nearly 37,000 troops in South Korea could encourage an agreement to "freeze and roll back" the North's nuclear program.

In Haiti, US forces in the Caribbean are the visible pressure in a campaign to remove the military junta from power in Port-au-Prince.

"If we go into Haiti — and I by no means believe that we're going to

have to go into Haiti — I do believe that the coercive diplomacy course we're on right now has a good chance of succeeding," Perry said. That course means "putting pressure behind the diplomacy, strong pressure, in this case sanctions being one of the most obvious ones."

The use of military force against Haiti, Perry said, "is a last resort. It's not the first alternative."

Perry admitted a CIA report on ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide contains "disinformation" about his character. He said this was not deliberate, but part of the process of forwarding raw data to higher officials. "The CIA reports the information that they get, which includes disinformation, so the problem of evaluating it is very difficult indeed."

And in Bosnia, strikes by NATO jets against Bosnian Serb forces may help bring about a peace settlement, Perry said.

Perry, who has been more active in foreign policy and diplomacy issues than most defense secretaries, was clearly seeking to lay down a philosophical basis for President Clinton's foreign policy in world hot spots. He used the coercive diplomacy phrase for the first time in the interview Friday and mentioned it no fewer than seven times.

The comments underscored a military policy founded on low-level involvement in multiple world situations.

Protestant extremists march in Londonberry

LONDON (AP) — More than 30,000 Protestant extremists marched through this Catholic border town yesterday, a quarter-century after the same triumphalist parade provoked riots and the deployment of British soldiers as would-be peace-keepers.

The Apprentice Boys, the Protestant group that each year honors the 1689 defense of Londonderry from Roman Catholics, assembled within the city's centuries-old battlements under the guard of several hundred soldiers and police.

Twenty-five years ago on the same spot, the Apprentice Boys march and Catholic opposition to it ignited three days of nonstop street fighting in Northern Ireland's second-largest town. The clashes forced Britain to deploy troops here and in Belfast as the province's highly partisan Protestant police force buckled under the weight of Catholic rage.

English policymakers expected that the 80-odd soldiers of the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment who separated the two sides, their bayonets fixed and cheered by Catholic locals,

would be needed for only a few months.

Yesterday several hundred of the 19,000 British soldiers now on duty in Northern Ireland stood guard over the Apprentice Boys march.

So much has changed in Londonderry, crucible of "the troubles," split in two by history and the River Foyle. The city that once symbolized Protestant discrimination — 30 percent of the citizens controlled two-thirds of the council seats — now has a solid moderate Catholic majority in power.

Only a few hundred Protestant families remain on the city's west side, having relocated to new neighborhoods on the eastern Waterside. Unemployment remains stubbornly over 20 percent, and Catholic hard-liners remain IRA supporters.

And the Protestant marchers stay true to their age-old motto: "No surrender." It reflects the philosophy of the original Protestant defenders of Derry, the 13 apprentice boys who, in 1689, shut the city's gates in the face of a Catholic army.

Man dies in Istanbul bus terminal explosion

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Romanian man died of injuries suffered in the bombing of an Istanbul bus terminal, the Anatolia news agency said yesterday. Ismail Smay, a Romanian national of Turkish descent, was among nine people injured in the explosion during Friday evening's rush hour, the report said.

Anatolia said Pavel Reinberger of the Czech Republic, Inger Christina Frederiksen of Sweden, and Mustafa Rayim and Ali Sunay, both Romanians of Turkish descent, also were among the injured. The rest were Turkish nationals.

Security forces meanwhile arrested a Turkish imam when he arrived in Istanbul after being deported from France, Anatolia said yesterday.

The imam, Abdurrahman Ciftcioglu, was accused of calling for violence against the Turkish prime minister Tansu Ciller. Security officials declined to comment.

Einstein to lover: 'My life is no life without you'

SHE was his "dolly," his "pussy-cat," his "sweet little witch." His only diversion when she wasn't around was physics. When he lent her his class notes, she sent them back — corrected. And without her, he said, "My life is no life."

She was Mileva Maric, a dark-eyed Serbian beauty and one of the only female physics students of her day. He was Albert Einstein, author of the theory of relativity and possibly the 20th century's greatest genius.

Their youthful romance has been known for years but now a collection of love letters makes for mildly racy reading in — surprise! — the August issue of *Physics Today* magazine.

"If only you were again with me for a while!" the student Einstein wrote. "We understand so well each other's dark souls, and also drinking coffee and eating sausages, etc...."

Without saying exactly what he meant by "etc.," he underlined the six dots.

"Come to me in Como (in Switzerland) and bring my blue robe, in which we can wrap ourselves up and don't forget your binoculars," he wrote later.

"My dear kitten, many thanks for your letters and for all true love contained therein. I kiss you and hug you with all my heart for it," he said in another letter.

Bert Schwarzschild, an editor at *Physics Today's* offices in suburban Washington, admits this is a departure from its typical fare, which this month includes the superconducting supercollider and findings of the Hubble Space Telescope.

"This is rather more sexy than what we usually do," Schwarzschild said in a telephone interview. "It's the most explicitly amorous thing that we've done in my time."

Schwarzschild said he got a bit sick of Einstein's cutesy terms of endearment.

"I found it cloying. All those diminutives! And it's worse in German," Einstein's native language. "I would not like to be a fly on the wall when these two were making love."

The love letters are from a book by Harvard professor Gerald Holton to be published this fall, called *Einstein, History and Other Passions*.

Holton sees the letters as illuminating Einstein's early passage from student to world-class scientist.

Young Albert and Mileva met in a physics lab in Zurich, where Einstein lent a year's worth of notes to help her catch up. Maric returned them with a correction, which appears in Einstein's collected papers.

Their romantic correspondence began in 1899 when Einstein visited Milan, where his father was in business, but the family did not approve of the affair. When Einstein let slip in 1900 that he intended to marry Maric, his mother went into hysterics and hinted Maric must be pregnant.

"With this last outburst, I finally lost my patience," Einstein wrote Maric.

"I vehemently denied the suspicion that we had been living in sin and scolded her mightily."

However, shortly before their marriage in 1902, Maric gave birth to a daughter named Lieserl. The illegitimate child seemingly vanished without a trace, possibly adopted in secret by one of Maric's relatives, but Holton found Einstein's response to the pregnancy significant.

"They are in stuffy Switzerland where illegitimacy is frowned on," Holton said by telephone. "He's jobless and trying to be a civil servant. The families on both sides are against the match... It's a moral test."

Instead of denying his impending fatherhood, Holton said, Einstein immediately vowed to take any job and to marry Maric as soon as possible, no matter what their parents thought.

"These letters of a young man confirm what the world knows so well: an intuitive way... that this man is fundamentally decent and thinks on behalf of humanity instead of his own fame... and this is what comes through in these letters," Holton said.

The marriage lasted through the birth of a son in 1904 until their divorce in 1919. (Reuters)



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Invention should put an end to crying over spoiled milk

NEW WORLDS
POST SCIENCE REPORTER

A device that detects bacteria in milk which have survived pasteurization has won a Ministry of Industry and Trade prize for novel technological products. The unusual device was developed by two brothers who immigrated here from the CIS four years ago.

The product is one of many new devices and processes to emerge from a scientific "incubator" company in Ness Ziona, which was launched three years ago by the Weizmann Institute of Science and Africa-Israel Investments Ltd.

The recipients of the award were Drs. Roman and Simon Feldberg; Roman is the general manager of the incubator company Sirotech, and Simon is the chief scientist.

Although pasteurization kills most bacteria, some manage to survive in milk. Until now, the detection of bacteria took two days, by which time the milk would be on sale in shops. With Sirotech's rapid bacteria counter, the microorganisms can be detected in seconds and then treated.

The counter records the electrical impedance of milk, which is influenced by the presence of bacteria. It's sensitive enough to count bacteria inside a milk carton and determine if the product is spoiled.

The Feldberg brothers hope to develop models that detect chemical changes in body fluids, plants, seeds, foods, organic films and petroleum products.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW TOWARDS PEACE

Satellite photos of the Israel-Jordan border where peace negotiations took place last month were received by an Israeli Space

Agency station and deciphered and processed with unusual software developed by the El Op company.

The photographs were taken by a satellite of the French company Spot Images. El Op is a signatory to agreements for cooperation with the French firm, which is one of the leading satellite photography companies. Customers order photographs from space of certain regions; El Op processes them to produce maps of the regions.

ARABIC FLIGHT INFO

The electronic flight information service operating out of Ben-Gurion Airport now speaks in Arabic, in addition to Hebrew and English. The Ma'aneh Koli company has developed the system, which is updated every three minutes.

The Hebrew and English versions were inaugurated in January by the Airports Authority; one will soon be available in Russian. Callers can obtain arrival and departure times from the computer by pressing buttons on their phone.

'KOSHER' HOT WATER

A "Sabbath-observant" solar water heater has been developed by Amcor. The product, which sells for NIS 2,490 - about NIS 300 more than the conventional solar heater - has been approved by a number of respected rabbis.

Many haredim and some modern Orthodox Jews refrain from using sun-heated water on Shabbat because cold water is introduced into the tank as it empties. Amcor engineers found a way to allow air into the tank instead of cold water as the heated water reaches the apartment.



Pasteurization does not kill all the bacteria in milk; a new device makes it possible to detect and eliminate the survivors.

DRY CLEANING FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Dry ice has been used only for cooling purposes. Now AT&T scientists have discovered that the material is highly effective in cleaning sensitive electronic equipment while causing little damage to the environment. Until now, sand has been blasted onto the equipment; but this causes pollution.

With the new technique, developed at AT&T labs, solid dry ice

is put through a grinder that turns it into spaghetti-like rods. These are then broken down into pellets, which are sprayed onto the surface to be cleaned. This causes the pellets to turn into gas when the cleaning process is completed.

WHERE BIG 'MACS' GO WITH CHOCOLATE MILK

Five thousand children aged five to 10 are taking part in the annual Tel Aviv University summer day-camp. What is unusual is that the youngsters are not spend-

ing most of their time making clay ashtrays or swimming in the pool; they are finding their way through the world of computers.

Each of the children has access to a Macintosh computer for hours of interaction with games and educational software. The children also learn to link up with other computers via a network.

OUT OF DIAPERS, INTO THE COMPUTER

A toddler as young as three can learn how to maneuver a comput-

er mouse using new educational software offered by the nonprofit Center for Educational Technology. The diskette, called *Dubi Mesehek Mahbo'im*, sells for NIS 119 in bookstores and computer supply and toy stores.

Without having to be able to read, the child can maneuver through nine games involving animation, puzzles, coloring and memory, which are of varying difficulty. The software is part of CET's early-childhood series called *Dr. Soft*, which was devel-

oped by leading pedagogical experts.

MEE-OWW!

Ordinary house cats are likely to be used as surrogate mothers to carry the embryos of same-sized endangered cat species. The Cincinnati Zoo has performed the world's first successful *in-vitro* fertilization of a house cat. In the next phase, female domestic cats will be used to carry embryos of exotic species of house cats such as Indian desert cats, jungle cats and leopard cats.

Scientists in the zoo's Center for Reproduction of Endangered Wildlife injected sperm into an egg from a domestic cat; a kitten was born on July 24.

CATARACT SURGERY SAVES LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

A 42-kilo sea turtle has been saved from blindness after undergoing cataract surgery at the US National Aquarium.

The loggerhead turtle, believed to be about 15 years old, was found floating helplessly near Virginia Beach a few months ago. It was emaciated, with fish hooks caught in its neck and cataracts on both eyes.

"We've removed the cataracts because we feel that will provide the animal with its best shot for survival in the wild. It's got a good chance of making it," Dr. Brent Whitaker, the aquarium's director of animal health, told Associated Press.

A veterinary eye doctor and an ophthalmologist who treats human patients did the surgery, and the patient was pronounced on the way to recovery. It will be released into the sea as soon as it is able to catch its own food. Aquarium officials said they think it was the first time a sea turtle had undergone cataract surgery.

Loggerhead turtles, a threatened species, can live more than 50 years and grow to 135 kilos.

Honey of a study has lab abuzz

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

BEE-HAVIOR may be a good model for the dynamics of human decision-making. Jerusalem researchers suggest that bumblebees select flowers for nectar according to the same principles that help investors pick stock and customers choose stores in the local shopping mall.

Biologists, psychologists, lawyers and game-theory experts are among the professionals studying the behavior of bees at the Hebrew University's Center for Rationality Research and Interactive Decision-making, nicknamed *Beehive*. A two-room lab, equipped with tens of thousands of shekels' worth of equipment on the Givat Ram campus, is literally buzzing with scientific activity.

The work, headed by professors Avi Shmida and Sergiu Hart, is said to be unique, in that it uses electronic "flowers" to observe bee behavior. The "flower" base is made from an ordinary plastic food container glued under a receptacle for sugar syrup. At the top is a hole through which the bee can insert its tongue and suck out the syrup; around the hole is a yellow or blue plastic ring.

"Whenever a bee lands on the 'flower' and inserts its head into the hole, a light goes on," explains Tamar Kassar, a doctoral student involved in the project. Each "flower" is connected by wires to a computer, which stores information on when each bee lands, how much "nectar" it drinks, which "flower" it chooses, and how long it remains there.

There are hundreds of young worker bees in a plastic hive. They were born in the lab, and they have never seen a real flower. Thus, says Kassar, they are perfect subjects for the bee behavior experiments. The researchers have a great respect for life; they won't kill bees that are old and weak at the age of two months;

they feed them until they die. Young bees are also fed pollen - a high-energy nutrient needed for growth.

Each bee is lightly pressed into a plastic cylinder with a metal mesh on one end; a numbered label is glued onto its back for easy identification. Students sit for hours in the nine-square-meter room, allowing only one bee at a time to emerge. After identifying the bee by its number, the observer allows the bee to fly as it wishes; the computerized flower records its movements and feeding behavior.

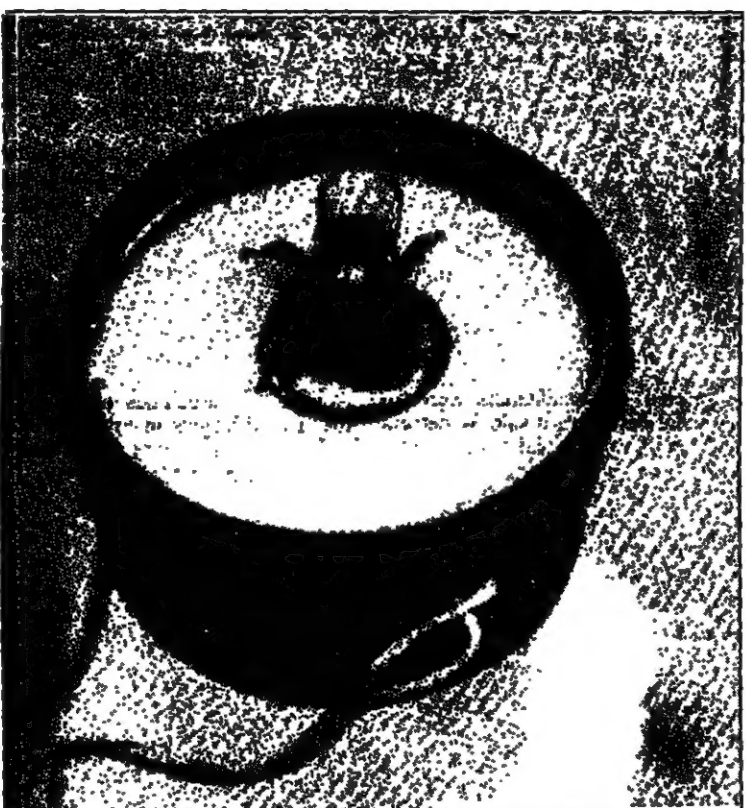
(The researchers hope to devise in the near future a bar code system with a striped label for the bees' backs. A sensor in the flower will identify the bee automatically, making human observers unnecessary.) During the experiment's first three months, thousands of flights by the 200 bees were recorded.

"We quickly learned that bees leaving their hive for the first time have no inborn preferences for flowers of a certain color," says Kassar, who wears a "Save Urban Cats" T-shirt and has a few bee stings to show for her efforts.

The researchers chose bumblebees as their subjects because they can be raised all year round and are not disturbed by Jerusalem conditions, even though they now flourish on the Carmel and elsewhere in the north. The lab has controlled temperature, lighting and humidity, so the bees feel at home.

Bumblebees were ideal because the workers don't communicate information to their colleagues; honeybees dance in a figure-eight pattern to disclose to others where flowers with nectar are located.

(Bumblebees survive after stinging - and sting only if they are really riled - because the stingers on their rumps are smooth; honey-



A bee, with an identifying number on its back, pokes its head into an electronic 'flower' at a Hebrew University lab.

bees' stingers are barbed, so stinging causes a needle to remain in the victim. That's painful for humans but fatal for bees.)

The researchers controlled the amount of nectar in the "field" of 40 randomly spaced electronic flowers. Yellow ones gave three times more nectar than the blue ones.

When nectar was especially plentiful in some of the "flowers," the bees learned quickly how to identify those especially worth visiting; this finding, notes Kassar, is the opposite of what was supposed by bee-researchers abroad.

The bees were also found to differentiate among "flowers" that have rich nectar and those with diluted nectar. They did this faster than they could learn the difference between "flowers" that filled up with nectar rapidly and those that filled up more slowly. Bees whose eyes were bigger than their stomachs and who filled up on too much nectar had difficulty flying back to their hive.

In future experiments, says

Kassar, the researchers want to test the bees' memory: will preferences from one day be forgotten after a good night's sleep in the hive? Kassar says bees are among the most intelligent insects.

The study will increase understanding of the evolutionary development of flowers' size, color and shape, as well as provide practical information for farmers who need to promote pollination of their crops.

In addition, says Shmida, the information obtained from the bee experiments is believed relevant to game theory, psychology and ecology.

"The colors of flower petals are to bees what TV commercials and newspaper advertisements are to people," he maintains.

After a careful study of all the data, the experts will look at the implications on decision-making by humans who - like the bees - are exposed to a variety of attractive and less-attractive choices and must choose anything from a new dress to a profitable stock.

Updates create better tools

ON LINE
DANIEL BAUM

TWO of the premier utility-program packages, Central Point's PC Tools for Windows and Symantec's Norton Utilities, have recently undergone upgrades: the venerable Norton is now in version 8, while PC Tools is on version 2.

Norton Utilities is a package containing one of the best sets of programs for disk maintenance, data protection and repair available on the market. I reviewed version 7 several months ago, and most of it is practically unchanged in version 8.

The main addition to the latest Norton Utilities consists of a number of Windows-based applications, designed to bring NU in line with the latest packages, chiefly PC Tools. These applications include Windows versions of the Speed Disk defragmenter, and the Disk Doctor repair and diagnostics package.

Speed Disk will now work in the background, which means it will get on with the job while you do something else with the computer.

A defragmenting program takes a very long time to run, so it is handy to be able to run something else simultaneously. The catch, however, is that if you write to the disk that is defragmenting, the program will restart - meaning it may never finish.

A system monitor is also provided to keep track of free memory, free disk space and a host of other things. It sounds an alarm if they go too low for comfort.

Another new feature is a suite of programs designed to facilitate editing of the configuration files, WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI. These files contain all the instructions for Windows, controlling such basic items as which fonts it loads, which video mode it runs in, and so on.

INI Tuner acts both as an extended Control Panel, giving access to various settings which the regular Windows Control Panel doesn't allow you to change, and as a shell for a suite of applications designed to allow easy editing of the INI files.

The safest way to change many of the commands in the INI files is

via Control Panel or one of the enhancements in INI Tuner. Bear in mind that if you make a mistake manually editing one of the INI files, Windows may not run.

INI Tracker makes snapshots of Windows' INI files and allows you to compare the different versions, thus keeping a record of changes made. INI Adviser is a help file which gives detailed explanations of the sometimes obscure commands contained in the files, while INI Editor is a special text editor for INI files.

As mentioned, all of these programs may be called via the INI tuner, which also provides, as an alternative to the Control Panel-like interface, an alphabetized list of all the INI commands, regardless of which file they appear in. Double clicking on an item in this list will bring up the editor.

One final enhancement in NU version 8 is that there is now a Windows version of File Compare. This is also a part of the INI Tuner package, used by the INI Tracker, but may be used as well for comparing any other files you wish. Differences in the files are shown in color, making it an effective tool, although only for comparing text files.

AS FOR PC Tools for Windows, the most notable new feature is that it will now work with the Hebrew Microsoft Windows. Some parts, most noticeably the backup program, still fail to run.

Another annoying incompatibility: a button is added to file-related dialogue boxes in every program you run, allowing you to run some of the small PC Tools file management utilities directly from inside the program. This feature does not work in Hebrew Windows, as the English/Hebrew selector buttons override it.

Most of the changes are cosmetic, such as redesigned dialogue boxes, or updates necessary to keep up with the rest of the software world: the File Viewer will

now process WordPerfect 6 documents, the File Manager will recognize PKZIP version 2 compressed files, and the disk utilities are now compatible with DoubleSpace compressed disks, which is ironic, as DoubleSpace is no longer distributed with MS-DOS.

The only completely new addition to this most comprehensive utility package is CrashGuard, a system monitor similar to but less comprehensive than the one included in NU version 8.

Now that it is more compatible with local computer requirements, this package is worth more than a passing look. PC Tools provides a desktop environment for Windows that is several leagues above the Program Manager, which as time passes looks ever more clunky. Not only does it provide nestable folders à la OS/2, it also provides multiple desktops. Each desktop may be devoted to a certain task, and the user can switch directly on the desktop without it getting horribly crowded.

As a utility suite, PC Tools has everything: a disk defragmenter, a disk doctor, a backup program, an anti-virus program, a superb set of file viewers capable of showing formatted output from dozens of programs, a suite of file-management utilities and an enhanced File Manager which acts as a shell for much of the rest of the package.

The backup program and the anti-virus program are the originals on which those bundled with DOS 6 are based, while Microsoft Defrag is based on the Norton Utilities Optimizer.

Joan Peters provides demographic and historical perspectives on the origins of the Arab-Jewish conflict over Palestine, and gives abundant justification for reversing the moral and legal presumptions that have led to Israel being cast as defendant before the court of world opinion. Softcover, 601 pp. JP Price NIS 54.00

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Killer asbestos disease claims 'passive' victims too

HEALTH SCAN

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

THE families of men exposed to asbestos at work may themselves be at risk for a rare lung disease. If the workers don't shower and leave their work clothes at the factory.

Doctors in the north report on a number of cases of malignant mesothelioma in the families - especially the wives - of asbestos workers.

Writing in *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association, doctors from Nahariya Hospital and the Technion faculty of medicine note that the disorder is primarily an occupational disease of asbestos workers.

Although it usually takes two to four decades between exposure to asbestos and the appearance of the tumor, the gap may be as short as a single month.

Employees who work with asbestos are now required to use protective clothing and headgear to minimize exposure.

Drs. Ariel Roguin, Menachem Ben-Shabar, Gad Ben-Dror, Itz-

hak Cohen and Elitzur Hazani report on two recent cases of mesothelioma sufferers who did not work around asbestos.

One was a 76-year-old woman whose husband worked in an asbestos factory for 32 years until his retirement 18 years ago. She had laundered her husband's work clothes at home.

The other was a 33-year-old man. When he was a child, his father installed asbestos materials as a construction worker and brought his work clothes home for cleaning. The young man died 18 months after the disease was diagnosed.

The authors conclude that employers must wash work clothes on site under controlled conditions, and that workers have to shower before going home.

DOCTOR ALWAYS ON DUTY

Sheba Hospital specialists now provide taped medical advice around the clock over a new telephone line. The service, which

costs the caller NIS 1.99 a minute, was established by the hospital's fund for medical research and infrastructure development along with the Euronet company.

Callers may hear information about cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The service will soon be expanded to include other subjects including preventive medicine, sleep disturbances, urological disorders, eye diseases, family planning and AIDS.

The number is 056-656111. The public may dial free from special telephones in the main lobby of the government hospital at Tel Hashomer.

The service lists a variety of topics; the caller presses a digit to choose; he may then press additional digits to hear information about dozens of specific subjects, such as the effects of alcohol on

heart disease, weight gain after smoking cessation, the symptoms of a heart attack, and medication for heart patients.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND HEAD SIZE

Although theories about the link between intelligence and head shape have long been abandoned, it is now believed that people with below-average head size face a greater risk of developing Alzheimer's and other geriatric diseases. Researchers stress, however, that density of brain cells could be just as important as the overall size of the brain.

The findings, reached by epidemiologists at the Batelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories in Seattle, suggest that small-headed people do not have enough brain cells in reserve to offset the loss of

cells caused by aging and neurological diseases.

The new results, reported in *The Los Angeles Times*, suggest that the most important causes of Alzheimer's may not occur late in life, as most scientists have insisted, but at the very earliest stages of development.

Although a small head size can be genetic in origin, the most common causes are the mother's smoking and drug use during pregnancy, and nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy and in the baby's first two years of life, when brain cells grow most actively.

The study, to be presented at an international conference on Alzheimer's, could also have immense implications for developing countries where nutritional deficiencies are endemic.

LOCAL STUDY ON BLINDING DISEASE

Beilinson Hospital has been chosen by an international committee to participate in a study

testing the effect of alpha interferon on a familial disease that causes blindness in the elderly. The disease, called age-related macular degeneration (AMD), is the most common cause of decreased vision and blindness in people over 65 in the Western world.

In most cases, patients have no idea that they have a genetic tendency towards the condition, and the first symptoms show up when damage has already been done to the optic nerve. Among the first signs are fuzzy vision, distortion of letters while reading and difficulty in focusing the eyes.

Prof. Yuval Yassour, the head of Beilinson's ophthalmology department, says initial research shows that AMD patients respond well to alpha interferon (also known as Roferon).

The drug will therefore be tested around the world, and Beilinson, along with Ichilov Hospital, will coordinate studies carried out on Israeli patients. The research is expected to take about 18 months.

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Bottomless kibbutz subsidy

TO the eternal certainties of death and taxes, Israel has added government bail-outs for the Histadrut's health fund and the kibbutzim. No matter how incapable they are of proper financial management, how unviable they are in today's marketplace, and how unwilling they are to undertake serious recovery programs and stick to them, the Kapat Holim Clalit health fund and the kibbutzim are rescued from bankruptcy with taxpayers' money.

The kibbutzim's accumulated debt to the banks now stands at NIS 5.7 billion. On Thursday a committee headed by accounting expert Yitzhak Swary submitted a proposal to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat which suggests that the government and the banks "forgive" NIS 3.6b. of this debt. This is in addition to the NIS 4.5b. "forgiveness" in the first kibbutz bail-out in 1989, and NIS 2.1b. which will have to be "forgiven" in the near future. The total - a conservative estimate - is over NIS 10b.

The banks usually pay 60% of these bail-outs while the government foots the rest of the bill. But, obviously, the banks' losses also ultimately affect the taxpayer.

Some of the rescue funds - NIS 1b. - will come from the sale of land which is not truly owned by the kibbutzim. It is government land leased to

them, which has increased in value because of its proximity to residential and industrial centers. It will be sold to the highest bidder, and the money used to pay some of the kibbutzim's debts.

Some of the government's contribution is conditioned on the ability of the kibbutzim to devise a viable recovery program and stick to it. But if experience is any indication, the success of the recovery programs has little to do with the government's readiness to subsidize the kibbutzim. They - like the Clalit health fund - will continue to be supported by the taxpayer.

The kibbutz movement's contribution to the country's development is not in doubt. Its place in the country's history is assured, if for no other reason than that its members have made enormous sacrifices in building and defending the country.

But the time has arrived to examine the economic viability of the kibbutzim, without letting appreciation of the past cloud the vision of the future. The fact is, that of the more than 200 kibbutzim, only 32 are truly self-sufficient.

True, government support for some branches of agriculture is practiced in virtually all the industrial democracies. But Israel must separate what is desirable for its economy from what is nothing but a subsidy for a special-interest group that happens to be close to the parties in power.

Gun crazy

THERE is little for the US House of Representatives to crow about in its defeat of President Clinton's crime-fighting bill. Elections in November are probably close enough for the congressmen to feel voters breathing down their necks.

America's love affair with the gun has always bemused foreigners. There is some understanding for a national tradition built on the frontier spirit and Wild West legends - enshrined in the constitution as the right to bear arms. But few people outside the US can understand why the right to bear a defensive sidearm has evolved into one that allows ordinary citizens to own powerful modern assault weapons few law-abiding people are ever likely to need.

Now that upwards of 24,000 people are year after year being killed by guns and more and more of the estimated 211 million privately owned firearms are reaching the hands of teenagers and even

children, it is easy to believe that it is Clinton, not Congress, who has grasped the public mood.

Clinton may have heard the alarm bells, but Congress apparently remains tuned only to the noise from the gun lobby. Despite the coyness of some Democrats regarding support they receive from the National Rifle Association, there is no doubt the association had a crucial role in mobilizing opposing votes from 58 Democrats.

President Clinton's anger and frustration are understandable. He is clearly correct in saying that on gun control, the public and police are now on one side, with the NRA on the other. Even congressmen seemed to be getting cold feet after the close 225-210 vote, sending out urgent "let's talk" messages to Clinton, in an apparent bid to rescind the crime bill, before its defeat becomes a November liability. If Clinton now can claw back an essential eight votes in the House, he may yet turn defeat into a major domestic victory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CROATIA'S VIEW

Sir, - The causes of the never-ending war in the Balkans could also be attributed to excessive legalism of international organizations, including the United Nations. Despite noble efforts to end the three-year-old conflict in the Balkans, the UN, as well as other international actors, are still unable to speak with one single voice.

It is worth recalling that in 1991, when ex-Yugoslavia began to fall apart, the republic of Croatia expected the European Community and the United Nations to accept its bid for independence, hoping that its recognition would stave off the looming Serbian military threat. In the absence of prompt international recognition, and due to its lack of fire power, Croatia could not put credible deterrence against Serbian land grab. Croatia had to wait six long months before it was finally recognized by all European Community members, and several more months before it finally joined the UN club. Meanwhile, it lost 27 percent of its territory to the invading "Yugoslav" Army and local Serb insurgents. Ironically, it was Serbia, which, while trying to salvage Yugoslavia by force, also destroyed it by force.

Over the last two years, the UN and other international actors have passed numerous resolutions, calling the Serbs to stop their aggression on neighboring Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today, as the surreal Balkan drama becomes more and more unbearable to Western "prime time" viewers, some foreign observers are calling for the creation of a war-crimes tribunal for those Balkan warlords suspected of committing war crimes. Yet, the idea of the international war-crimes tribunal, noble as it sounds, cannot be taken seriously. While the Serb leaders Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic are often being portrayed as "war criminals," pressing them to attend multi-lateral talks with their Croat and Moslem counterparts, under the UN auspices, only provides legitimacy to the Serbian erstwhile "ethnic cleansing."

TOMISLAV SUNIC, Ph.D.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Department of Culture and Promotion
Zagreb, Croatia.

NO ISLAMIZATION ON TEMPLE MOUNT

Sir, - While Prime Minister Rabin can't hope for the wide support that he would like for his "peace" with the PLO, he can get wall-to-wall support for an agreement with Jordan. He need only limit King Hussein's custodianship of Moslem holy places to those not built over Jewish foundations.

Even democratic elections cannot grant our premier the power to recognize, in the name of all the people of Israel, the Islamization of our Temple Mount. If the Arabs don't like losing their lands and their holy places to the original owners, they should build their homeland and their mosques on Arab, not conquered, property; and if they see their presence in Eretz Yisrael and on the Temple Mount as part of a divine plan, how can any Jew endorse their claim?

ZVI STONE
Jerusalem.

JEWISH STUDIES

Sir, - It was with heartfelt approbation that I read of the recommendation to increase Jewish studies in secular state schools. This is an issue which has been overlooked for years.

Being an Israeli does not make you a Jew. Our people were redeemed from Egypt in order to receive the Torah and only when we were prepared to enter the land, we are the only people in world history to become a nation prior to living in our land.

Our government is rightfully concerned about Jewish education in the Diaspora but neglects to provide basic Jewish values and tradition to our own youth. Our children are thus being deprived of their rightful heritage. Whether one will observe Jewish rituals is a matter of choice but being made knowledgeable of one's religion is a legacy which should not be denied.

I do not agree that Judaism has been left in the hands of the Orthodox as stated by our minister of education. It is here for everyone to discern and uphold.

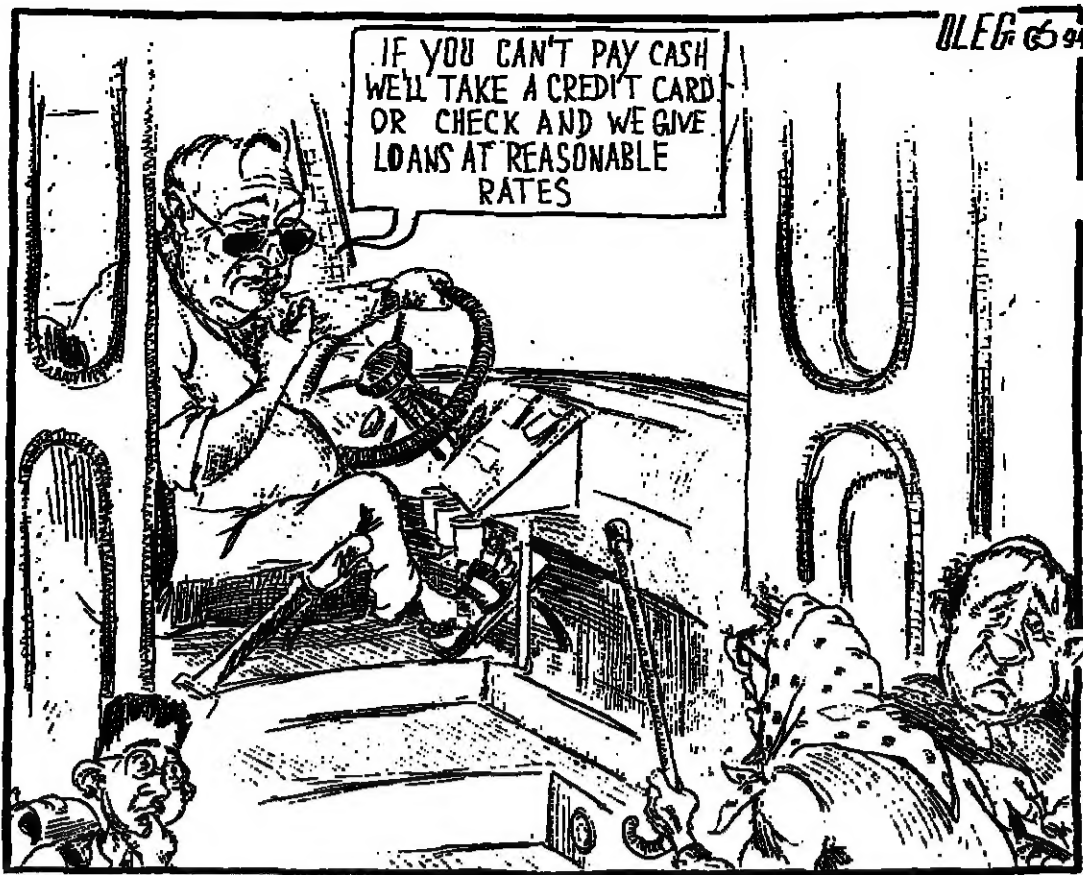
Unfortunately, the home does not always teach the tenets of Judaism. Regardless, schools should carry the responsibility to educate and transmit Jewish tradition, history, literature, culture, to each student. One hopes that being versed in Judaism will bring about a better understanding and closer relationship between the religious and nonobservant and a stronger regard for the unity of all Jews.

SARAH KOPS
Jerusalem.

AJC'S YELLOW STAR

Sir, - The American Jewish Congress should be ashamed for announcing a "four-day trip to Jordan for Americans in Israel." It's like putting the Yellow Star of David on the rest of the Israeli people.

EVELYN DAR-EL
Haifa.



A lack of self-respect

ARIEL SHARON

THE festivities are over. The fancy clothes are back in the closet; the two charming girls Nancy and Zohar are in school; the bereft families have returned to their bitter agony; and IDF generals have added the Jordanian gifts to the other souvenirs in their homes.

It's been a perfect show, its timing impeccable. The Knesset session in the preceding week, the halting of air traffic to Israel, King Hussein's flight over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and the awe-inspired calls of "Your Majesty, you are above me now." (How symbolic!)

The Jordanians are friendly and courteous but reserved. It is dignified behavior which makes one anxious. Unlike them, we push, choked with excitement, hoarsely gushing, yelling "Shalom, salaam, long live the king, long live Rabin." On our ships we already wave Jordanian flags. No Israeli flags have been seen on Jordanian boats. They understand the value of symbols. They know that no nation can exist without them.

Our behavior has its price and the more we are unable to control ourselves and preserve self-respect the more we shall have to pay. And peace, even if we achieve it, will slip from our hands.

But who can stop the celebrants? The government has an interest in presenting such ostentatious shows to counter its failures. Having destroyed agriculture, discouraged allies, and built not one housing unit, the government must celebrate in the Arava, dine in Akaba and sail in the royal yacht in the Bay of Eilat.

WE all want peace. But do we know what price the Jordanians are demanding for peace? To date they have made four main demands:

● Official status on the Temple Mount and a recognition of "the special historic role of Jordan on the Temple Mount." It is Mount Moriah, the place holiest for Jews for almost 4,000 years. "In matters of religion - precedent is decisive," said a senior minister. Correct. Jerusalem is our capital only because of the Temple Mount. It is because of the Temple Mount that we say on Seder night, "Next year in rebuilt Jerusalem." It

is because of the Temple Mount that we have settled in the Land of Israel and not in Argentina or Uganda, it is "the land of Zion and Jerusalem," as our national anthem has it.

When Jews pray, wherever they may be in the world, they face the Temple Mount. When Moslems pray, even if they are on the Temple Mount, they face Mecca.

Whoever is willing to relinquish full control over the Temple Mount is actually ready, now emotionally, tomorrow in practice, to forfeit everything.

Before 1967 we didn't possess the

The government has an interest in presenting such ostentatious shows to counter its failures

Temple Mount, but we never stopped, even for one second, striving to return to it. I used to say to my late son Gur when he was a child and we would ascend Mount Zion to view the Temple Mount: "The Temple Mount is ours, but it is not yet in our hands."

That is why the most important result of the Six Day War was not the winning of the Sinai or the Golan, but our return to our holy place, the Temple Mount. It was there that we truly touched history.

● The Jordanians are demanding the return of 800,000 Palestinian refugees to Judea and Samaria. They are 1967 refugees who are actually 1948 refugees who had resettled in Judea and Samaria. When they return again to miserable, poverty-stricken refugee camps and see their homes and fields and ancestors' graves before them, their hatred for us will only grow.

● Jordan is demanding 313 million

cubic meters of water, one-sixth of all the water used by Israel. Of these, they want 27 million cubic meters in the Arava, which is 60 percent of the water we use for our agriculture there.

Theirs is part of the general Arab demand - of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians - which amounts to 1.2 billion cubic meters of water, two-thirds of the amount of water used by Israel.

Between one festival and another this government is liable to accede to these demands. A small and wholly superfluous gesture has already been made in Akaba. The prime minister offered a gift to King Hussein. He tilted his jar, and with generosity and chivalry presented his host with four million cubic meters of water, enough to sustain four moshavim in Israel.

I'm reminded of President Yeltsin's visit in Japan. Pressed for funds, he asked the Japanese for aid to the tune of \$2 billion. They conditioned it on the return of half of the Sachalin Island, captured by the Russians without a battle at the end of World War II. It is a small, barren, god-forsaken area, but Yeltsin, despite his great economic difficulties said: "Do you really believe I can decide to relinquish Russian land?" He returned to Moscow empty handed.

There will probably be other demands, too, and this government will probably accommodate them, because we have turned peace from a means to a goal. Our prime minister and foreign minister are the only statesmen in the world - and in history - for whom peace is the goal and the national interest the means, the coin with which they are willing to pay to achieve peace. Thus we reach an absurd situation: every time there is a threat to peace, or peace seems unattainable, a further concession is made, in which yet another historic, strategic or other national interest is sacrificed.

The writer, a former defense minister, is a Likud MK.

Where is Clinton?

DAVID HOFFMAN

PRESIDENT Clinton should consider the deeper meaning of the events unfolding in the Middle East. The enormous changes washing over the region didn't happen because of pressure from Washington.

While American diplomacy was essential to the Camp David Accords 15 years ago, and the Madrid peace conference in 1991, it has been incidental to the events of the last year in the region.

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, his revolution running out of money, was still persona non grata in the United States when the Israelis and Palestinians forged their deal in Norway. The Clinton administration had not taken seriously the reports it received that such a secret peace-making effort was underway.

King Hussein, ignored when the Israel-Palestinian agreement was negotiated, was deeply shaken and could see that the changes around him were real. He saw the possibility of Arafat's ruling more than one million Palestinians in the West Bank as a threat to his monarchy and did not need coaching from the White House and State Department to realize that he too must adjust to the times.

Not only did he collect a potential financial windfall from Clinton, but the Israelis delivered a tantalizing hint of another prize: Jordanian primacy over the Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem lost in the 1967 war.

It must be refreshing for Clinton to have peaceful Mideast changes unfolding in his back yard when everyone is carping about his foreign-policy skills.

But it would be an enormous mistake to confuse what happened at the White House with an assertive American foreign policy.

While the Middle East has begun sorting itself out largely on its own, many people wonder what's become of the United States, and especially this administration.

The United States should be ashamed that it has done so little thus far to help Palestinian self-rule get off the ground. It's true that dealing with Arafat is no picnic, but the price of getting the Palestinians on their way is incredibly small, given the potential payoffs.

The US should be ashamed that it has done so little thus far to help Palestinian self-rule get off the ground

It's pathetic that after the administration sponsored an international conference in Washington that pledged \$2.4 billion over five years, the Palestinians are still struggling to meet each pay day for their police force.

The worrisome suspicion in some quarters is that Clinton likes to be master of ceremonies but isn't interested in the heavy lifting needed to produce the show.

Now a genuine opportunity is knocking at Clinton's door. It is the last major conflict between Israel and its neighbors - the dispute with Syria over the Golan Heights.

Unlike the secret Israeli dealings with the Palestinians and Jordan, the settlement with Syrian President Hafez Assad cannot be reached in face-to-face meetings with the Israelis. Assad insists that the United States be at the table. For Clinton, this should be a sure-fire chance to make some history, not just to preside as history is being made.

Clinton's prospects are enhanced by the fact that the current Israeli government has said it is willing to take the heat at home and bring a land-for-peace Golan settlement to the public with a referendum. Israelis are naturally skeptical about a new arrangement that they have never experienced before: the Golan in Syria's hands before 1967 meant shelling and death in the north; the Golan in Israel's possession has been relatively peaceful for two decades.

So giving the land back will take some convincing about the durability of the peace for which it is exchanged. That kind of persuasion would be a lot more effective if it were backed up by the United States.

Unfortunately for Clinton, it also involves taking risks. The Golan settlement must resolve the sticky security problems of early warning, deep demilitarization and monitoring. Stabilizing the frontier until the peace begins to sink in on both sides might well mean stationing American troops for a period of years on the lonely volcanic plateaus.

Does Clinton have the imagination to delve into this? To bring the cunning Assad and wily Rabin face-to-face? To show the rest of the world that Clinton is willing to do the hard work of diplomacy and American leadership - even without a ceremony on the White House lawn? The time is coming when he ought to show us.

The writer has just completed a tour as Jerusalem bureau chief for The Washington Post.

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August 14, 1994

David Nyhan

Digesting the News

I'm not the smartest guy on the block, but I'm not the dumbest either.

And I still have a hard time figuring out how they come up with these names of places that give me nightmares when I think about them. Kigali? Never heard of it till a million-plus Africans took to their heels out of Rwanda.

Bosnia-Herzegovina? Thought it was a cheese till about three years ago. Mogadishu? Ask me two years ago, and I'd have guessed either a tropical disease or a National League shortstop.

The point here is that things keep coming at us faster and faster. There's no time to digest, which is what my mother used to say when she wouldn't let us go swimming right after lunch. This world needs someone like my

Lots of people are going to die very painful deaths between when I write this, and the time you read it.

This week, we had the 25th anniversary of men walking on the moon. And we've got 20 million-plus refugees walking on the planet. Neil Armstrong says, "There are still places to go that are beyond belief." I agree. But he wasn't talking about Goma. The air traffic controllers who ran relief supplies into Sarajevo are moving their effort to Africa. What a job. Winter in Bosnia, summer in Rwanda. Amazing.

The New Yorker magazine, which used to be as far as you could get from trash tabloidism, is out this week with breathless what-if journalism about how a cop just might have planted the bloody glove to nail O.J. Simpson. That seems to sug-



mother. Unfortunately, she is not available. We have to make do with what we've got.

Which is considerable grief, for starters. I happen to be in the news business, but I also happen to enjoy life without too much sadness. Which is why I avoid TV news as much as possible. But when some game I was chasing got mixed in with the pictures of the hapless hordes of Rwandans fleeing to Zaire, I got ambushed by pictures of families about ready to starve, get cholera or be murdered by marauding Tutsis.

President Clinton was not wrong when he said that the photos from Africa remind him of a Mel Gibson "Road Warrior" flick. It is that bad. And the contrast is so colossal. Let me explain.

We've been having a heat wave this week on the East Coast. The worst are what I call three-shirt days. Ever notice how nasty people get when it's hot, humid and dank? How many more people give each other the finger in traffic? How people start cranking over parking space or a cash register beep?

I heard a man on public radio talking about how hard it's been for 150,000 people in Macon, Georgia, who've been without water for two weeks because of the floods. "They've gotten right tasty," he said. I can believe it. I wonder how the Rwandans are doing. They've got water with cholera in it.

They've packed into Goma, Zaire — another city I never heard of till this crisis — and they need 2 million of fresh, clean water daily, and they're getting 50,000 gallons a day.

gest that if you were counting on high-end journalism to save the world, you are out of luck. I looked and looked. I understand the argument that we cannot take care of every problem on earth. I sat with a group of journalists this week who fired questions at the earth's most powerful person, the American president. He mentioned, in reviewing a hundred chores on his mind, that he's ordered the U.S. government to send a fast \$100 million in aid to Rwanda.

I think that's the right thing to do. But I don't have any great faith that it will save all the people who need saving there. I think a lot of people there are just going to drop dead for want of a clean jug of water, or an IV bag of salts, or three squares for their kid.

There's something that doesn't balance out. We have too much. They have too little. A new report says every third American adult is at least 20 pounds too fat. I am sure there are a couple of million Rwandans who are 20 pounds, or 60 pounds, too skinny.

I decide to bag it. I take an early slide, and I buy my wife some flowers in a supermarket. When I get home, there's a little plastic packet in the bottom of the flower stems. It says: "flower food." I am feeding cut flowers, that came out of a well-watered and air-conditioned American supermarket. There are a million Rwandans wandering downtown Goma, wherever the hell that is, and there is no supermarket for them. I'm calling it quits right here. It's too hot.

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FEIFFER

I AM THIS TERRIFICALLY EIGHT FORSOFTLY DYNAMIC



ARTICULATE, EMPATHIC, ACCESSIBLE PRESIDENT.



AND I DO NOT MISLEAD.



I DO NOT DISSEMBLE.



I DO NOT PREVARICATE.



I DO NOT DAMAGE MY OWN CREDIBILITY.



BY SHOOTING MYSELF IN THE FOOT.



I AM NOT A SCHNOOK!

I AM NOT A SCHNOOK!

The roots of Argentina's anti-Semitism

Robert Weisbrot

Cry For Them

Everybody was stunned. No body expected this horror," an Argentine Jewish woman said of the bombing in Buenos Aires on July 18, which killed about 100 people, wounded more than 200 and leveled a seven-story building that had anchored the nation's Jewish life for fifty years. Rubén Ezra Beraja, president of a federation of 130 Jewish organizations that had shared the building with the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, declared the bombing "the worst massacre of Jews in the Americas since the colonial era." Still, for many of the estimated 300,000 Jews in Argentina, the shock was partly one of recognition: a reminder that their country has afforded them, at best, a precarious safety periodically broken by acts of terror.

At first blush, Argentines had much to lament but little to atone for. All evidence suggests that the bomb was planted by foreign terrorist group, the Partisans of God, that had surfaced in Lebanon in April with a vow "all-out war" against Israel. Many Argentine Christians, moreover, attended a July 21 rally of 150,000 organized by the Jewish community called "Standing Up to Terror." President Carlos Saul Menem also showed solidarity with his Jewish brothers after the bombing. "In [my] grief, I am also a victim," he declared, pledging every resource of his government and full investigative authority to agents of the Israeli Mossad and other foreign intelligence services.

None of these apparently encouraging developments, however, could quite extinguish the bitter cynicism that overtook Jewish neighborhoods. Many angrily recalled the car bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, in which thirty people died and more than 100 were seriously wounded. Following that attack, a foreign fundamentalist group, Islamic Holy War, claimed responsibility. And President Menem vowed to bring the murderers to justice — but the investigation led nowhere. Looking back on the embassy bombing, a young Jew takes little comfort from Menem's recent assurances: "Many Jews thought it foolish that the president says he is sorry this happened. He is always sorry, but these things keep happening." The record of Argentine Jewish history gives these remarks a powerful and somber resonance.

Jews have found Argentina an often generous but dangerously unstable host since they arrived in large numbers from Russia, Poland and other European countries in the late nineteenth century. These early immigrants enjoyed cultural freedom and the opportunity to rise in an expanding economy, first as workers in farm colonies and flourishing factories and later as skilled artisans, businessmen and professional. Today their descendants com-

prised an educated and prosperous middle class in Argentine society. Yet at no time have they known the tolerance or physical security that would give full meaning to their other attainments.

Recurrent surges of bigotry and violence have often made Argentina seem less a haven for Jews than for anti-Semites. Synagogue bombings, swastikas desecrating Jewish cemeteries, shootings, kidnappings, and well-financed campaigns of slander and harassment have been among the recurring offenses. The perpetrators have also varied, from hate-mongers parading military insignia to Nazi war criminals to guerrilla bands to garden-variety thugs.

Argentina's volatile treatment of its Jews reflects its own divided character since winning independence from the Spanish empire in the early nineteenth century. The country has forged democratic institutions and proclaimed a commitment to pluralism that befits its history of encouraging immigration. Yet authoritarian, nationalist and xenophobic traditions dating to Colonial times have proved equally tenacious, compounded by eco-

nomics, anchored by cries of a Jewish Communist conspiracy against the Argentine state. Such charges have the ring of legitimacy because a disproportionate number of the country's leftists, particularly Communists, have been Jewish — even though most Jews traditionally have supported democratic and anti-Communist candidates. As Jews have consolidated their position in the middle class, these charges have increasingly coexisted with warnings that they are insidious agents of foreign bankers.

Denunciations of "Zionist imperialism" have also given rabble-rousers on both ends of the political spectrum an effective euphemism for anti-Semitic ravings in a land where most professed Jews are Zionist. In 1971 an extreme nationalist teaching at the University of Buenos Aires, Walter Beveraggi Allende, warned his Christian countrymen that Israeli soldiers aimed to seize the Southern third of Argentina and convert it into a new Jewish state to be called "Andinia." Recycled versions of this conspiracy theory continue to circulate widely. In January 1986, according to the

educational and welfare organization — a unique documentary source for a century of Jewish communal life. The bombing obliterated its records, together with the largest collection of Judaica in South America: in all, some 70,000 books, magazines, paintings and archives were destroyed.

Most Jews seem convinced that the bombing was not simply a random tragedy of foreign origin, but the culmination of more than a half-century of anti-Semitic lawlessness in Argentina. Their suspicions are deepened by the fact that the bomb exploded just after the regular meeting time "Project Witness," a group that has documented the Argentine government's protection of more than 1,000 Nazis, including war criminals, since 1945. Only a chance postponement of the meeting spared the workers. Still, Jews widely shared the cynical view of Jorge Haiperin, a columnist writing in the journal *Clarín*, that Argentina offered a logical site for the bombing: "There is anti-Semitism in non-Islamic sectors, and weakness in the system of prevention and punishment."

Despite President Menem's valiant effort to repair the damage, the barriers to a more secure Jewish community remain formidable. His request to the Mossad stems partly

"Recurrent surges of bigotry and violence have often made Argentina seem less a haven for Jews than for anti-Semites. Synagogue bombings, swastikas desecrating Jewish cemeteries, shootings, kidnappings and well-financed campaigns of slander and harassment have been among the recurring offenses."

from Argentina's chronic failure in investigating and punishing anti-Semitic attacks. The popular reaction to the bombing is also problematic: Many Argentines

voiced outrage on behalf of their Jewish countrymen, but others lamented only the deaths of Christian passers-by. A worker stopped a young ticket salesman in Buenos Aires a day after the bombing and said bitterly, "A terrible tragedy." Then, unaware that the salesman was Jewish, he added: "What good luck it was only the Jews!"

In the wake of the bombing some Jews have vowed greater activism for Jewish rights, while others have resolved to leave Argentina (more than 75,000 have settled in Israel alone since 1948). If history is a guide, though, the great majority of Jews will continue to cope as best they can in a nation alternately welcoming and forbidding. And they will hope that Argentines may yet undertake, in the words of Rabbi Leon Klenicki, "A reckoning of the soul," to acknowledge and at last to purge that spirit of violence and intolerance that has stained the country's history. Otherwise, the Jews can expect no end to their ordeal but, at best, another fragile interlude.

Robert Weisbrot, a professor of American history at Colby College, is the author of *The Jews of Argentina*.

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PERSPECTIVE WEEKLY

Editor
Guy Bernfeld



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EDITORIAL CARTOONS

Alan Dershowitz



Menendez Defense Strikes Out in Logic

Although the retrial of the Menendez brothers has not yet been formally scheduled, Leslie Abramson — Erik's lawyer and chief spokesperson for the young killers — has already begun her counteroffensive against critics of the "abuse excuse," which she used to obtain hung juries the first time around.

In a Newsweek article, Abramson suggests that anyone who believes that the Menendez brothers should be found guilty is a sexist and racist. She argues that the Menendez case helped to open a "public debate on how gender bias influences the way we perceive crime, criminal responsibility and justice."

Wait a minute. Am I missing something? Aren't the Menendez brothers two rich, white males who killed their mother and father in cold blood and then celebrated their inheritance by going on a spending spree? What does this have to do with racism or sexism?

In a further leap of illogic, Abramson characterizes her 26- and 23-year-old clients as "children," and argues that children and women "rarely kill," but when they do, they "don't do it out of wounded pride or from affronts to their sexuality or in the anger of the rejected" — as she says men do. First, the Menendez brothers are not "children." Second, men in their age group kill more than in almost any other age group. Third, women kill their family members as often as men do — and for the same basic reasons.

The truth is that Leslie Abramson is trying to bootstrap her very unsympathetic case — rich, mobile young men who killed for cash — into the far more sympathetic category of women who had no choice but to kill their abusers in order to save their own lives. By doing so, she is making it more difficult for battered women who have legitimate claims of self-defense to be taken seriously. Indeed, Charles P. Ewing, a psychologist and law professor, points to a jury trial following the Menendez case in which the jury deadlocked in a clear-cut battered woman syndrome case, as evidence of the backlash caused by lawyers like Abramson. Another distinguished law professor, Yale Kamisar, who has been teaching criminal law for 35 years, observed that if he "had given the facts of the Menendez case to his students in an exam 10 years ago, it would have seemed like a joke."

The fact is that so far the Menendez brothers have gotten away with murder. Their case has nothing to do with racism or sexism. It has everything to do with cynicism and greed. Even if they were sexually abused, there is absolutely no doubt that they had every opportunity to leave their rich parents and try to make it on their own.

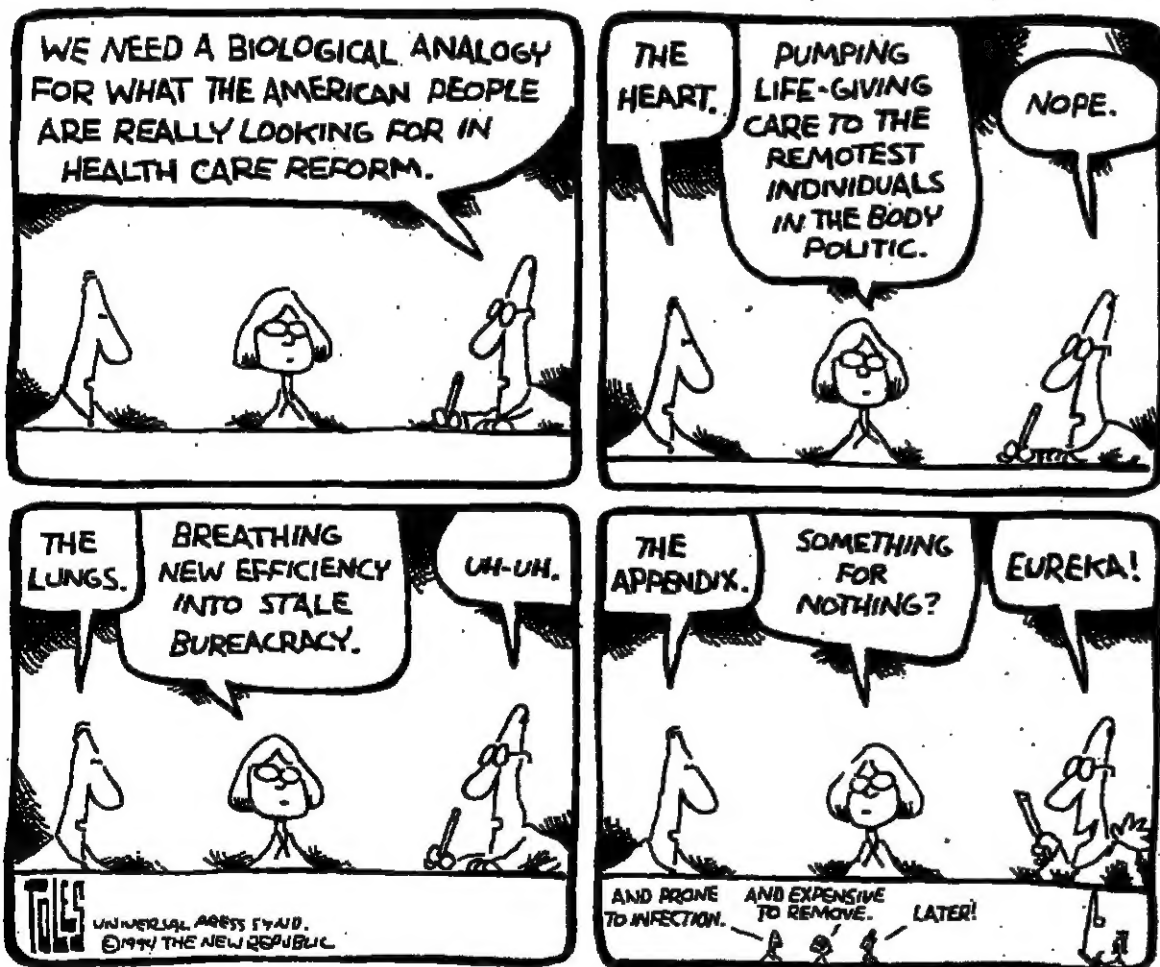
At the retrial, the prosecution can take the steam out of the abuse excuse if it tries the brothers first for the murder of their mother, who they do not claim abused them. How will Abramson argue that these "children" are victims of "gender" injustice if they are convicted of killing their unarmed mother who was eating strawberries in the living room after filling out a college application for Erik?

Abramson attributes the criticism of the Menendez verdicts to a "male model of justice" — a concept derived largely from the scholarship of Professor Susan Estrich. What Abramson neglects to tell her readers is that Professor Estrich is among the more vocal critics of the Menendez defense. She — like most thoughtful experts, both male and female — believes that there is simply no basis for a claim of self-defense on the facts of the Menendez case. Abramson ignores the numerous female critics of her "abuse excuse" defense, so as to make it appear as if this were a gender issue, which it is not.

As a final act of hypocrisy, Abramson rails against the support O.J. Simpson is receiving, claiming that it derives "from the undercurrent of entitlement that the killing of an ex-wife engenders." There is no support for this preposterous view. Moreover, it is Abramson who is seeking to whip up support in the community — and among potential jurors — for her clients on the basis of the argument that when "children" kill their parents they always do it out of "fear and terror," never out of crass financial motives. It was Abramson who invited jurors to dine with her at her home after they failed to convict her client.

There is an old legal saw that says when the facts are on the client's side, hammer home the facts. When the law is on the client's side, hammer home the law. When neither is on the client's side, hammer on the table. Leslie Abramson's latest defense of the Menendez brothers is nothing more than table hammering.

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



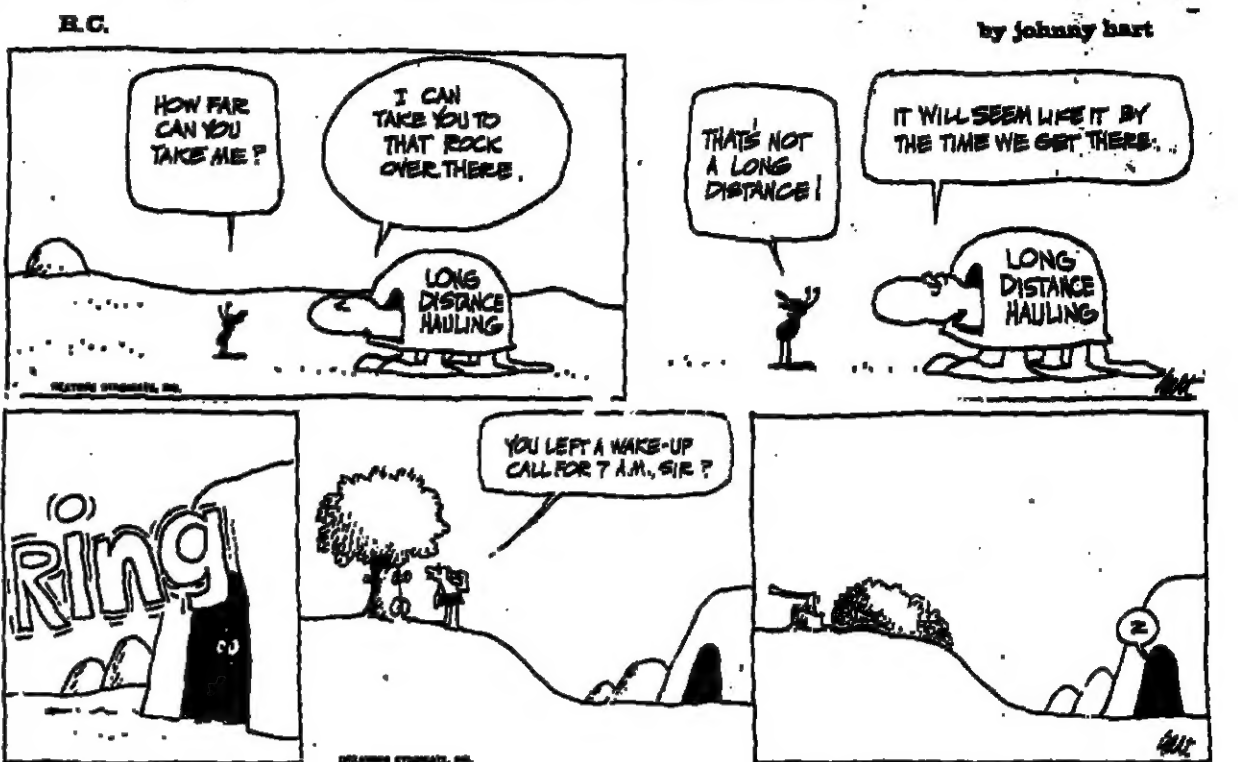
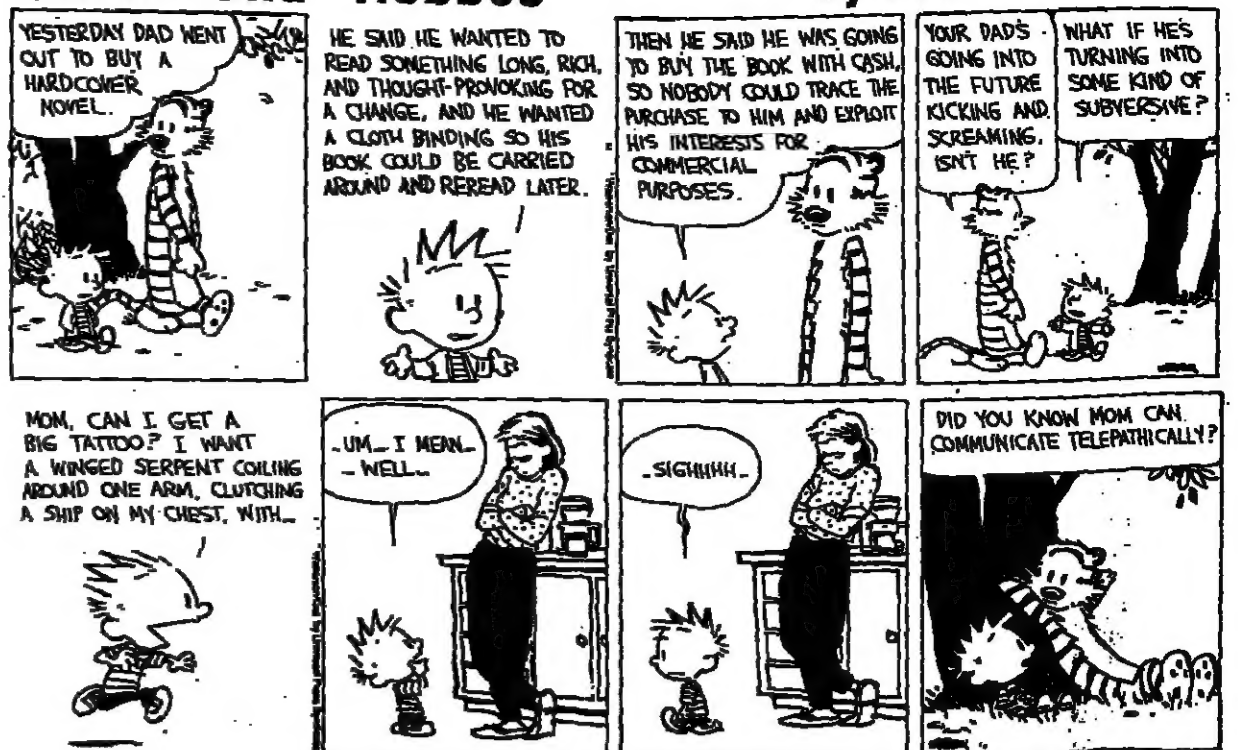
THE FAR SIDE

by GARY LARSON



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz



THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman
AT THE LIBRARY: A puzzle that speaks volumes
by Shirley Soloway

ACROSS

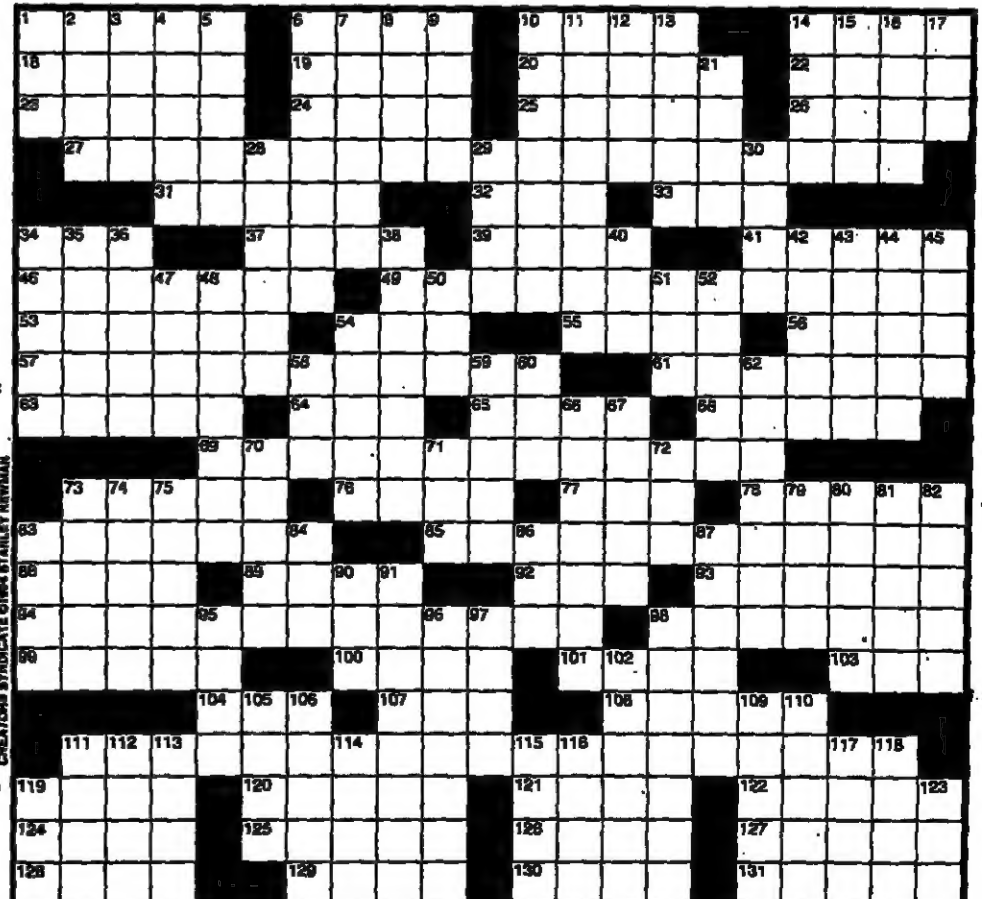
- 1 Gather together
- 6 Large boats
- 10 Coffee, Tea, ...?
- 14 Spoken
- 18 Born-again tire
- 19 Lady of La Paz
- 20 Historic miniseries
- 22 Fence picket
- 23 Pass (Uris novel)
- 24 Tilled the soil
- 25 "... thine ... kingdom ..."
- 26 Author Hunter
- 27 Understand the implications
- 31 Farm-machinery man
- 32 Rocky peak
- 33 Kidnapped monogram
- 34 One-star off
- 37 Belgradian
- 39 Old French coins
- 41 Clarinetist Shaw
- 46 "... be a lesson to you!"
- 49 Frankly speaking
- 53 Hostile encroachment
- 54 Perfect serve
- 55 Just fair
- 56 The Belmonts' leader
- 57 Investigate secretly
- 61 Out loud
- 63 Couldn't stand
- 64 The King and I name
- 65 Long story
- 68 Borge and Andersen
- 69 World record, e.g.
- 72 Defendant of '21
- 76 At large
- 77 Despicable
- 78 Domingo's domain
- 83 Gazelle hounds
- 85 Dishing the dirt

DOWN

- 1 The law's long limb
- 2 Goida of Israel
- 3 Molière play part
- 4 Brunch selection
- 5 Ground breaker
- 6 Sticks (to)
- 7 Fan
- 8 Was aware of
- 9 Marquis de
- 10 Venezuelan river
- 88 Egyptian goddess
- 89 Join the chorus
- 92 Have the flu
- 93 Bigot
- 94 Bankruptcy-code provision
- 96 Turn into cheese
- 99 Impudent
- 100 Like petting-zoo animals
- 101 Lots of qts.
- 103 Ukraine, once: Abbr.
- 104 Sigma predecessor
- 107 Morse-code element
- 108 Filmom's Teyve
- 111 Get right to the point
- 119 Spanish surrealist
- 120 Drone
- 121 Jai
- 122 Be of use
- 124 First governor
- 125 Memorable Brooklyn shortstop
- 126 Opposed, so to speak
- 127 "... dink (small-time) chicken part
- 129 The New Yorker founder
- 130 Metropolis director
- 131 Vicunas' hangout

ACROSS

- 11 Preachers' pulpits
- 12 Flame fancier
- 13 Clear slides
- 14 Kind of tournament
- 15 Great review
- 16 "Dear me!"
- 17 Author Deighton
- 21 Auction off
- 28 Right next to
- 29 Saint-Tropez summers
- 30 "... Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
- 34 Christian's persecutor
- 35 Salami variety
- 36 Walk like a turkey
- 38 Two-tone
- 40 "... Paulo, Brazil
- 42 La Pensée creator
- 43 Cherokee or Chippewa
- 44 Objects of worship
- 45 Medieval toll
- 47 Muscle quality
- 48 Cod's cousin
- 50 Cal. neighbor
- 51 US cryptographic org.
- 52 "... Something To Me"
- 54 Nashville icon Roy
- 58 Ham holder
- 59 Ms. Lauder
- 60 Sound made by fans
- 62 Northern region
- 66 Taking shape
- 67 Bubbling up
- 70 Din
- 71 On Soc. Sec., maybe
- 72 "... up to (admit)
- 73 Peter and the Wolf bird
- 74 Pen name
- 75 Zodiacal points
- 79 Wear a rut in the carpet
- 80 Inventor Howe



- 81 Takes it easy
- 82 Fall bloom
- 83 Sets the dogs on
- 84 Baronet's title
- 86 New Guinea town
- 87 Holds onto
- 90 Salary less deductions
- 91 Elation
- 95 Jezebel's hometown
- 96 Political refugees
- 97 Animal docs
- 98 Too sweet
- 102 Ellington's express
- 105 "The Tribal-Love Rock Musical"
- 106 Wiser, maybe
- 109 Maureen of the screen
- 110 "After the ..."
- 111 Biblical pilgrims
- 112 Fed head Greenspan
- 113 One kind of crab
- 114 Bread spread
- 115 Afrikaans
- 116 Gymnast Korbut
- 117 Writer Ayn
- 118 Little shaver
- 119 Morning moisture
- 123 Fleur-de-

QUOTE CRYPTOGRAM by Rebecca Kornbluh

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Ross Thompson

Virtual Reality

There has been a lot of hype lately about Virtual Reality (VR). For those of you who have missed the hoopla, VR is a means of simulating or substituting a person's perception of reality with head-mounted visual displays driven by powerful computer imaging software. The display replaces one's direct visual sense of the world with field-of-vision-filling computer-generated landscapes and reacts to the wearer's head movements by shifting the viewpoint appropriately. The sensation which results is that of having one's head in a room of brightly rendered geometrically structured objects that can be approached and apparently walked among and around. Add a data glove and you can see and use your hand (or rather, a segmented representation of it) in the room. The technology is rapidly moving toward whole-body suits which will not only track your movements and map them into the VR, but provide tactile feedback to your real body as well.

VR as it exists today is crude by comparison to the real world but the limitations are primarily a function of computer power. The many potential uses of VR include communications, education, entertainment, weapons guidance, and even sex. To this broad spectrum of applications one might well add spiritual inquiry.

The use of VR to induce altered states of consciousness is definitely in the plans of some of its proponents. In his book, *Virtual Reality*, Howard Rheingold notes that Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia and former acid guru Timothy Leary "both agreed that their first trips to cyber-space reminded them...of their first psychedelic adventures, that a machine that can change your worldview is something like LSD." Hallucinogenic plant extracts have long been used in ritual practice and spiritual pursuits by indigenous cultures, but they are not without risk. VR may provide a safer path to spiritual growth through altered states, although one cannot assume that it will be without risk. Rheingold reflects on the problem of the pursuit of ecstasy in today's society: "America in the 1990s has a problem with ecstasy in its original sense of ex-stasis, of moving out of one's daily trance for a moment, transcending the mundane particulars of mortality, shedding one's ordinary waking consciousness, to make direct

contact with the numinous. Unlike the Jivaro of Amazonia or the ancient Greeks at Eleusis, we postindustrial urbanites have no socially sanctioned method of putting aside our everyday con-

sciousness and quenching our thirst for direct experience of the mysterious *tremendum et fascinans*. Unlike most adults of the past 100,000 years, we were never initiated in fear, trembling, and joy. We never made acquaintance with our own birth and learned about our connection

with death. The illusion of the self was never demonstrated in myth, song, dance, chant, and direct confrontation. The old teaching stories weren't whispered to us in moments of awe and terror. We

some, integrating, nonpathological form of ecstasy capable of liberating safely the long-repressed Dionysian energies of our heavily Apollonian civilization.... VR might become a key to open the doors of perception, but only if someone has the grace and good sense to design it properly."

Regular explorations in virtual realities could break down some of those encoded ways of thinking: "Cyberspace will not merely provide new experiences, like new rides at a carnival. More than any mechanism yet invented, it will change what humans perceive themselves to be, at a very fundamental and personal level. In cyberspace, there is no need to move about in a body like the one you possess in physical reality. You may feel more comfortable, at first, with a body like your 'own' but as you conduct more of your life and affairs in cyberspace your conditioned notion of a unique and immutable body will give way to a far more liberated notion of 'body' as something quite disposable and, generally, limiting.

You will find that some bodies work best in some situations while others work best in others. The ability to radically and compellingly change one's body-image is bound to have a deep psychological effect, calling into question just what you consider yourself to be." (Randal Walser in *Virtual Reality*)

Certainly it is possible through meditation and yoga to experience other realities, perhaps the "true" reality spoken of by the sages. But this practice requires discipline and time. We late-twentieth-century homo sapiens lack discipline; we are impatient; we don't have the time. The stimulus VR may provide makes it an appropriate tool for our ever-accelerating culture.

I don't think we can slow down the pace of technology, nor should we try. We can't be sure that this is not the evolutionary path down which we are meant to proceed. Proceed with caution, definitely. But let's see what's out (or "in") there. It's just possible that virtual reality will be the last gasp of the mechanistic materialist paradigm we are inexorably leaving behind. Perhaps it can be a bridge from paradigms lost to paradigms found.

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Martin Peretz

Virtual Peace

Inside the Israel-Jordan pact

Like some grand old houses that are rented out for weddings, the White House is now made available for sit-downs between Arabs and Jews. It was made available for just such a purpose on September 13, 1993, and it was made available again on July 25 for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein to sign a peace agreement confirming what the world already knew: the two countries had been at peace, more or less, for nearly a quarter of a century. Actually, U.S. diplomacy had as much to do with these two *sukhtas* as the proprietors of the grand houses have to do with love, proposals and marriage. (Catering for the peace process is really just workfare for Warren Christopher.) But what is called the Washington Declaration between Israel and Jordan, — the public act, that is — could never have happened without the sclerotic handshake on the lawn last year. For on the very morrow of that event, the Palestinians who for more than three generations have clutched at their status as refugees, festooned their camps with black banners of mourning and went into the streets ululating that Yasir Arafat had betrayed them. On that day, also, King Hussein, who, alone among Arab rulers, bestowed on waves of displaced and mostly self-displaced Palestinians citizenship and civil rights, was freed from his indenture to their delirious politics.

In the early '80s, when Ronald Reagan and Shimon Peres had put the "Jordanian option" into play, some Palestinians, exasperated by the PLO's affinity for psychodrama, came to King Hussein and asked him to negotiate with the Israelis on their behalf. Here, basically, is what he said to them: If I succeed in getting from Israel all of the West Bank and all of Gaza and all of Arab Jerusalem except for one *shubbr* (a linear measure based on the distance between the stretched pinky and thumb), you will say that this last *shubbr* is the holy *shubbr*. Of course, it is just possible that, had the king been more daring and the Likud less obstreperous, the Jordanian option might have won the day. But the odds, like sandbags in the street, were stacked against it. The lesson the Hashemites have taken from their history is that they cannot be too far ahead of their subjects. In 1951, Hussein's grandfather, King Abdullah, was killed (emerging from prayer at Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem) because news had spread, accurately, as it happens, that he was talking peace with the Jews. In 1958 Hussein's cousin, King Faisal of Iraq, and Faisal's entire family were massacred in Baghdad by a mob. However dissolute, the Baghdad Hashemites were all that stood between the polity, such as it was, and the feverish revolutionary expectations that brought them, finally, Saddam Hussein's rule. Arab politics is not kind to moderates, even if they are very rich. But those who are both rich and moderate can at least rent the acquiescence of the Arab radicals who need their money in order to cause trouble for other Arab moderates who are not rich. Such transactions are usually what is meant in the Middle East by the protective metaphor "building high walls." Sometimes, as in Kuwait, the high walls fall.

King Hussein, however, is not rich, and, although he is the senior Arab ruler, Arab politics has been particularly unkind to him. He has always had to shore up his high walls. Mostly, he has had to soothe the Palestinians who comprise half his realm. Only when they rose directly against him in 1970 did the king respond with the kind of ferocious dispatch of which his constituents doubtless had begun to think him incapable. He also has had President Hafez al-Assad of Syria to worry about. This is

not an abstraction: in 1970, for example, Syrian tanks made a dread crawl to the Jordanian frontier, only to be turned back by Israel's command of the skies. And though the king might count on Jerusalem to save his country from the extremities, he has had to cope on his own with the subverting routines of his Syrian neighbors. In this neighborhood, Syria is not the only brute. Understandably, Jordan is also fearful of Ba'athist Iraq, whose leader would very much like



J. SUITS

to have his troops face the Jews across the river, which, despite what the old gospel song tells us, is neither deep nor wide. In any case, like his enemy Assad, Saddam Hussein allied himself with Palestinian ultras. This concentrated the king's mind.

It also led him to his most risky gambit. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, Jordan put itself among the handful of retrograde states actually to applaud the act. This entailed a treacherous break with the king's most important patron, the United States. It could be argued that had Jordan no done as it did, the country would have been torn apart by another Palestinian insurrection. The king's head might have fallen to the crowd. Consequently, Israel never really exchanged words with King Hussein over this move, empathizing perhaps a bit too axiomatically with an excuse provided by *raison d'état*. Moreover, however offended Washington might have been by the Hashemite choice of comrades, it would be hard put to hold this against him for very long since it was always looking for a rationale to forgive Arafat his far less justifiable and less rational loyalty to the tyranny in Baghdad. The Bush-Baker administration had an instinctive affection for the king. In fact, in comparison with any leader of the Jewish state, it could, like the Carter administration, always find an Arab ruler it liked better — no matter whom. The leader of the Gulf war coalition slapped the king's wrist. Which brings us to now: the Gulf war was never a big thing for President Clinton, so Hussein's peculiar apostasy about Iraq was no big thing for him, either. The king's visit is an easy reconciliation.

King Hussein's behavior during the Gulf crisis was counted a much weightier betrayal by the Saudi Arabians, however. Their fate hung in the balance as the world powers decided whether or not to let Saddam have his way in Kuwait. Riyadh is not, therefore, at least

vis-à-vis Amman, a forgiving place. Antique rivalries between the two clans give texture and context to the bitter dis-

appointment with Jordan's choice in the fall of 1990. One reason these rivalries were so easily awakened was that the Jordanian king's choice signaled that he feared Iraq more than he feared Saudi Arabia, which is to say he valued Iraq more.

But the rivalries are rife and ripe without provocations. The Hashemites are descendants of the Prophet whom the British, grateful for the tribe's little rebellions against the Turks during the First World War, took from the Hejaz and installed as royalty in a sleepy town in a country that was at most an imperial caprice. It was not the reward to which they aspired and to which they thought themselves genetically entitled. After all, the house of Saud was, only yesterday, a web of raiders and traders. Yet to them was awarded by the British, and for the same reason, the prize of Mecca and Medina, along with, it soon turned out, the richest oil fields in the world. King Hussein must lay awake at night thinking of the might-have-beens. But, then, King Fahd may rumble about the impertinence of the impoverished pretender. These are epic quarrels. Here is a truly grand setting for a new version of "Dynasty."

Soft though the United States may be on the Jordanian royals, it has real interests, way beyond sentiment, in its relationship with the Saudi royals. The United States knows that the Saudis have not yet been sending checks to Amman, and these may well be delayed still longer because Jordan seemed again to have sided with one of Riyadh's sworn enemies, the ambitious brigands of North Yemen in the war against their southern counterparts. The United States also knows that Saudi money has already arrived in Gaza and Jericho for the PLO, an organization that, especially since 1990, has been held in contempt by its longtime paymasters. Still, the Saudis have not pressed the case against Jordan with the United States. Their intra-Arab feud notwithstanding, the princes understand the function Jordan needs to play in maintaining a countervailing balance in the region against the unappeased (and perhaps unappeasable) Palestinians and the Islamic extremists. In the end, then, the two monarchical regimes are allied even though they may not like each other at all.

For Israel, the settling of differences with Amman is a simpler matter. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was correct when he told a press conference that "negotiations with Jordan enjoy the support of the whole country." One reason for this is that, whatever the reciprocities of the coming agreement, there are no great exchanges of territory in the offing. There are some cartographical disputes, but they are exactly that, with no great intrinsic valence for either side. Indeed, since Israel will likely give up fewer miles than Jordan wants, the transaction is seen in Jerusalem as a precedent for the more fraught negotiations yet to be held with Syria over the Golan, a precedent that says peace does not necessarily depend on the Sinai formula of total withdrawal. Although there is lingering bitterness among the Israeli population over the leveling of the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem (and over the expulsion of all Jews from that sector) when the nineteen-year Jordanian occupation began, the fact is that Hashemite Jordan has proved its intentions to live at peace with Israel.

Whether Labor or Likud was in power, the two countries cooperated uninterceptedly on issues ranging from intelligence and internal security to agricultural blight. The Washington meeting was, then, a logical climax to all the years of virtual peace in the past. Though psychologically important for the region, the signed peace treaty will not be transformative. It will admit what has already been transformed and what everybody knows has already been transformed.

Still, the statement ending the forty-eight-year-old state of war between Israel and Jordan will be the first agreement in the region from which something akin to real normalcy will flow, the kind of normalcy that even under the best of conditions one could not imagine flowing from an agreement with Syria, the kind of normalcy that, alas, has not been experienced even fifteen years into the signed and sealed peace with Egypt. Already, Jordan has given Israeli civil aircraft the right to fly over its territory on their way to Asia. This is only the beginning of a mutual process.

The stronger Jordan is, however, the stronger and the more meaningful the peace will be. The country is woefully



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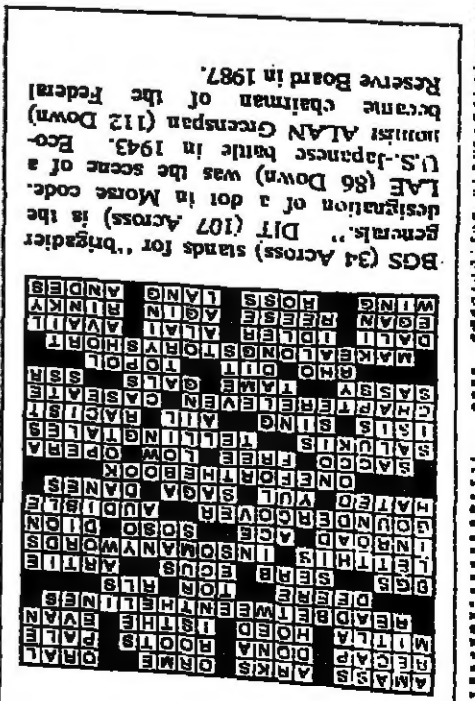
poor, with a per capita income that is less than 15 percent of Israel's. Its gross national product is one-sixteenth of Israel's. Prosperity is not a cure-all for collective maladies of the soul. But Muslim fanaticism would be muted by a dose of economic growth. The kingdom's debt is enormous, some \$700 million of it owed to the United States. The president has promised to try to get congressional support to cancel it. This is surely in the interest of the United States. Jordan's military capability has also been significantly diminished in air and tank power and in surveillance technology. A weak Jordan is a standing invitation to mischief from the local bullies, even if one of them, Syria, is ultimately coaxed into the peace process. And, unless the monarchy's overwhelmingly Bedouin army spills up, the Muslim Brothers or the local Palestinians or both may be lured to try again the politics of rage and devastation.

But Jordan can do more than preserve itself. In the tense negotiations over the next few years between Israel and the PLO, for example, a psychologically and politically more secure Amman could add to the balance of atmospheric ra-

tionality. In fact, the king has already done this by suggesting that the spiritual interests of Muslims in Jerusalem's holy places are distinguishable from the political interests of Arabs, generally, and of Palestinians, particularly. While the Saudis might disagree with Hussein on who might be the most apt guardian of the Islamic sensibility in the city, they don't disagree with his basic point. Echoing the agreement, President Clinton made remarks at the White House ceremonies recognizing the kingdom's responsibility for Muslim holy sites in the city. This must have driven Arafat apoplectic. Jerusalem is Arafat's hot button. His nutty reaction to the Israeli statement that the King was welcome to pray on the Harim al Sharif ("They have no right to issue any invitations. It is my duty and my responsibility to invite my brothers and friends to come visit the Muslim and Christian sites; which are under Palestinian jurisdiction.") is just a small omen of tantrums yet to come. Some Palestinians are already anxious that the Washington agreement, in discussing bilateral aspects of electric power and water rights, is leaving them out of sovereign decisions with the assent or even the complicity of the U.S. administration.

Whatever the territorial dimensions and whatever the sovereign character of the place to be called Palestine, how its government governs will depend finally on who has sway over its leaders. Palestine will simply be too small and for decades too poor for that not to be the case. Diminutive polities — and not so diminutive ones, too — are almost always in someone's sphere of interest. What Harold Bloom calls "the anxiety of influence" is not just in the ken of poets. The Palestinians will live either with the delusory gratifications of ecstatic politics and the cruelties that attend them or they will live with the practical gratifications of quotidian politics and the compromises that attend them. Anyone who wishes the Palestinians the first, with all the turmoil with Israel it implies, is not truly their friend. This leaves them the second option. But for that kind of politics to prevail, the sphere of influence with which they are associated cannot be that of Syria or Iraq. It would have to be Jordan — and Israel. Jordan, however, needs help to perform that function, help that only the United States can provide. That truly would be an American contribution to Middle East peace. But it may be the kind of contribution this administration hasn't the imagination to make.

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Tiberias history written in stone

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

MODERNITY came to Tiberias 100 years ago with the inauguration of the Scottish Missionary Hospital, an imposing structure made of black basalt stone.

The hospital's sponsors aimed their activities at Jews, since the law of the land prevented them from seeking converts among Moslems.

Young Dr. P.W. Torrance was a deeply religious person, proud to be "the first Christian physician to follow Christ's steps around the Sea of Galilee." But he arranged for kosher food to be given to his Jewish patients.

Everybody of importance in the city, whether he was Jew, Moslem or Christian, attended the opening ceremony of the hospital in January 1894. It contained 24 beds for adult patients and 16 for children. Some 2,000 patients were treated in the hospital annually.

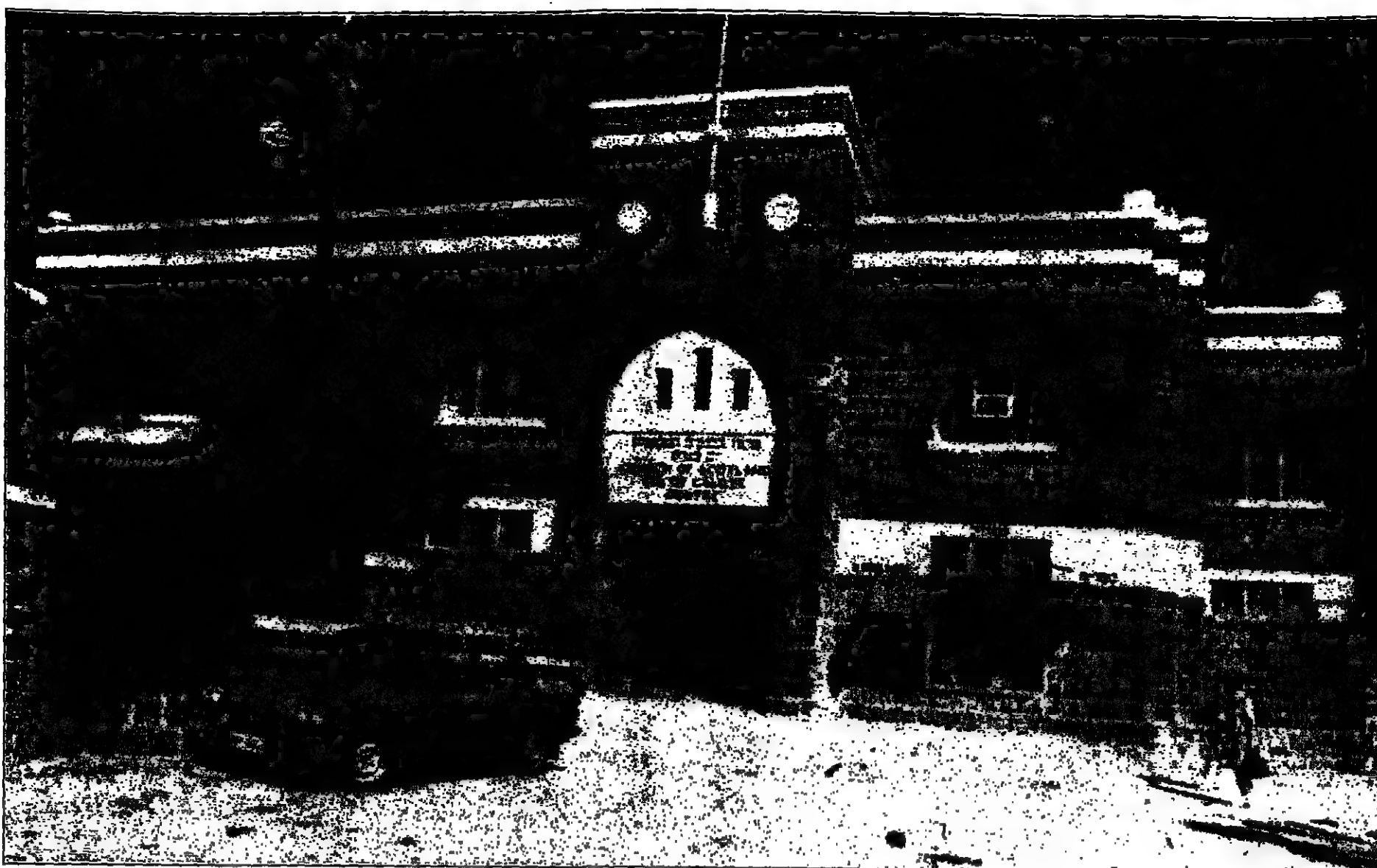
Torrance made a name for himself as a doctor, "though he failed as a missionary," observes Dr. Ruth Merom in her contribution to issue No. 9 of *Mitav Tveria*, a collection of studies sponsored by the Municipality of Tiberias and Bar-Ilan University.

In the 1950s the building ceased to be a hospital and was turned into a hospice. It is one of the few vestiges of the period when all permanent housing in the area was built in black, local stone.

It was cemented with white mortar, giving it the look of a photo negative. Artists were enchanted by the unusual colors, but more conventional souls found it rather depressing.

Tiberias was built in 18 CE by Herod Antipas in honor of his Roman protector, emperor Tiberius. In the second century, the Jews in the country established their base in Tiberias.

After the Arab conquest in the seventh century, however, the Jews moved their religious authorities to Jerusalem.



The Scottish Missionary Hospital in Tiberias (today the Scottish hospice), built 100 years ago, provided kosher food for its Jewish patients.

The town was all but abandoned by the time Sheikh Zahir Amir, a local chieftain, made it his base in the 18th century. He invited Rabbi Haim Abulafia of Izmir to establish a Jewish community there.

To protect the Jews from encroachments by Beduin, he built a wall around the settlement, which was 50 meters wide and 200 meters long, cranked between the sea and the almost vertical mountain to the west.

However, danger lurked in an unexpected quarter. Suleiman, the governor of Damascus, besieged Tiberias for three months. He did not oust Amir, and renewed his attack a year later. But his death cut short his attempt to settle in what seemed to be a lucrative position. The Jews of Tiberias celebrated yearly the date of Suleiman's death, says Dr. Karen Levy in her contribution to the brochure.

About half of Tiberias's Jews in the 19th century were of North African origin, noted Dr. Michal Ben-Ya'acov. Their number grew from 200 at the beginning of the century to over 600.

The authorities, however, forbade building outside the perimeter of the town walls, and the ghetto became an overcrowded, filthy place. Its lanes were so narrow that balconies on second-floor flats practically touched each other across the street.

Each wave of immigration maintained its particular traditions which were perpetuated in numberless little synagogues that sprouted all over the Jewish quarter.

Practically all were destroyed in the earthquake of 1837, including the one Haim Abulafia had erected. It took a decade to construct a new synagogue in its place. Meanwhile its congregation used the facilities of El Senior synagogue, owned privately by Rabbi Shmuel Hachohen Conorti. Etz Haim (so named in Abulafia's memory) and El Senior are among the few that function to this day.

"The Messiah will first appear in Tiberias," pious Jews believed. No wonder Jews were buried all over Tiberias for centuries. Visitors are drawn to famous tombs such as those of Maimonides, the codifier of the Law, and Rabbi Akiva, the patriotic sage martyred by the Romans. The vast majority of the graves are unmarked. Digging foundations for a new building is a risky enterprise all over Tiberias, as confrontation with the Orthodox Atra Kadisha is often unavoidable.

Another attraction which has drawn visitors for 2,000 years are the hot springs, which have reputed healing qualities. It is strange that a place so dependent on visitors from afar could not be easily accessed. Only towards the end of the last century, the Hejaz railway made a station at Tzema, from which point one could take a boat to reach Tiberias. Macadamized roads leading to the center of the city were a luxury created only under the British Mandate.

As soon as it became more accessible, Tiberias became a popular tourist spot. With the beginning of the British Mandate, hotels sprung up in the town, which were as modern as contemporary techniques and the sponsors' funds permitted.

The most impressive in its time was the Elisheva, says Yehuda Ziv, whose father was the principal of a local elementary school. It was built by Shlomo Feingold, a man who had converted to Christianity - gossip said he did so to marry a very rich English lady. He had been an exceptionally

gifted student in the famous Volozhin Yeshiva. Ziv says. In spite of his conversion, he was a good Jew at heart. "He liked to stroll with my father and discuss things. Occasionally, he wrote him long letters in flowery Hebrew." The Elisheva Hotel was a huge building containing a hall for theatrical performances - Habbimah and Ohel used to play there.

Communication being the key to progress, little wonder that Abrasha Zimber was Tiberias's admired hero in the 1920s. He plied the first "bus" in town. It was a Model T Ford, with two benches seating six passengers. Abrasha did not hesitate to order his passengers down off his "Ford" (that's how he nicknamed his vehicle) if it failed to master the steep gradient of the road to Haifa. But, undaunted, Abrasha did reach Haifa. Occasionally, life is for the daring.

Wonder puss cures warts, predicts storms

HEADS 'N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

A student from Beersheba writes: "Are all tortoiseshell cats female? Someone told me they were, but I find this hard to believe."

Surprisingly enough, this is almost true. The chance of a tortoiseshell cat being a male is about one in 500. The reason for this lies in the cat's genetic composition. Tortoiseshell cats have black and brown markings, with the latter ranging in color from very dark chocolate through a whole gamut of rosy tans and even fading to white. Since both the gene for black and the gene for brown are carried on the female chromosome, and there is only one pigment gene per chromosome, in order to inherit both the black and the brown genes the cat must have two female chromosomes. These two chromosomes will result in a female cat.

In very rare instances a cat is born with three chromosomes instead of the usual two - two female and one male. In this case the cat will inherit both the black and the brown pigments, but will be a male. However, tortoiseshell male cats are most often sexually impotent and, in all known cases, infertile. In addition, they usually have the bone structure and smaller head of the female, and never develop the jowly head of the adult male.

Because of their rarity, male tortoiseshell cats have achieved a place in folklore. In Celtic countries these feminine toms were considered lucky, and it was a favorable omen if one chose to live with you. The English country folk used to believe that warts could be cured by rubbing them against the tail of such a cat during the month of May.

The Japanese, who call these cats *mi-ki-neko*, or tricolor cats, consider them extremely lucky and claim that they can predict earthquakes, and storms and typhoons at sea. Ships' crews will pay fantastic amounts for such animals because they believe they provide protection against disaster. They spoil them with the finest fare and allow them to sleep wherever they feel most comfortable.

The mundane adventures of Daddy's darling little cocoa-nut

KISHON'S KEYHOLE
EPHRAIM KISHON

My redheaded son Amir is a poor eater. He's been a poor eater from the cradle. He just doesn't like to chew. Or swallow. Experienced mothers told us we should starve him - just starve him. He'll come begging for food on his knees. So we starved him - till Amir got so thin that we begged him on our knees to eat. Then we took him to see a famous specialist, and the man just gazed at our skinny son and asked:

"What's the matter with him? Doesn't he eat?"

"No."

"I thought so."

The specialist informed us that there was nothing to be done, some children were poor eaters and that was that. We paid him for his advice, and since then we've more or less resigned ourselves to the fact and just cram as much food into the child as he'll hold: by the sweat of our brows shall he eat.

Actually we don't have much patience for all the bribing and such that's involved. My wife's father, on the other hand, loves it: he tells Amir the craziest stories, and Amir sits open-mouthed and forgets not to eat.

The problem, with a capital "C" is Cocoa. Cocoa, as every child knows, is made up of nothing but what's good for you - vitamins, minerals, spinach, everything. And so, come evening, Gramps and Amir retire to the nursery, and after about an hour Gramps reappears, tired but happy: "He's drunk half..."

The turning point came one summer evening when Gramps emerged from the nursery almost speechless with joy:

"He's drunk it all!"

"Gee," I said, "How did you do it?"

"I told him we'd pull Daddy's leg," my cunning father-in-law revealed. "I said let's drink all our cocoa and then fill the empty cup with water and tell you that we hadn't drunk any at all, and you'd be awfully cross, and then we'd say we'd fooled you..."

I did find it all a bit primitive, frankly, but under the wife's pressure ("So long as he has drunk his cocoa..."), I played along.

Gramps came out of the bathroom toting the cup with its disgusting mess and announced: "Amir hasn't drunk his cocoa!"

"Grrr, am I cross," said I. "Grrr, am I wild. Then I'll drink his cocoa myself!"

Amir's eyes sparkled with glee as I tasted the nasty stuff and spit it out in an arc. "Ugh! What's this?"

"Fooled you! Fooled you!" Amir danced round me like a little savage and his laughter rang like a bell - but he drank his cocoa, and that, as his mother says, is what matters.

Next day - ditto. Gramps goes to the bathroom, grrr, am I cross, grrr, am I wild, spit in an arc (the only part that's natural), fooled you, fooled you. And from then on we go through the entire rigmarole every evening, and by now we don't even need Gramps any more (the child grows older and learns, after all). Amir goes to the bathroom himself, grrr, am I cross, fooled you, the glee, the bell...

In time it began to worry me, rather.

"Listen, my dear," I said to the wife, "Do you think this child of ours is a ninny?"

What bothered me, I mean, was: what the hell does this child think? Does he think that after the zillionth repeat I still don't know what he's up to every evening? That I'm soft in the head? The little woman pointed out that never mind what the child does, so long as he drinks his cocoa. I did try to get to the bottom of it once: instead of tasting the bilge before the ugh-what's-this, I poured it straight into the sink.

"But Daddy! You didn't taste it!" And Amir burst into tears. I got hot under the collar. What does he take me for? A child?

"I don't have to taste it," I yelled. "I can see it's water!"

"Then why did you always taste it before, you liar?"

Aha, so Amir knows we're only going through the same stupid motions night after night. He knows. So why do we have to go through them all the same?

"Because it amuses him," says the wife. "And so long as..."

Autumn came and went, and some time in November my little cocoa-nut introduced a slight change into our dialogue, so that my cue now went: "I didn't drink any. This isn't cocoa at all, it's pee..."

And late in December he began stirring it with his little finger before handing it to me for spitting. I hated it more with every repetition. I'd started to dread the minute when the little monster would show up with his glee and his bell.

Why can other kids drink their cocoa without the dramatics and

only me, I'm stuck with this half-wit?

Roundabout New Year's I did a shocking thing. Something gave. I suppose. That evening I took the bitter cup from my son and did not spit the bilge out in an arc but drank it all to the last drop. It nearly choked me, but I just had to do it. Amir watched my performance with narrowed eyes, and then the storm broke:

"Why did you do that?" he wailed. "why?"

"What'd you mean - why?" thus I, with a sick sort of satisfaction. "You told me you hadn't drunk any, and that this wasn't cocoa and all, right? And I said okay, then I'll drink it myself, so I drank it - so what?"

Amir looked at me with loathing and cried all night. What it all came down to was that he'd known all along that I knew it was water and was only pretending. But if that's so, then who needs this bloody comedy every night? The little woman solved this one for me:

"The child," she said, "drinks his cocoa, and that's all that matters."

So the cocoa make-believe went on, night after blasted night, and I almost stopped caring. A man can't be blamed for the stupidity of his offspring, after all. It's like a natural disaster, nothing you can do about it. Some parents are blessed with smart children, and others are not so blessed, grrr.

The next thing that happened was Amir's fifth birthday. That

evening, instead of our usual fun and games, Amir had a proper party, and when his friends had all gathered he took them to his room, and he took the poison cup with him too. Presently the little woman sent me along to keep an eye on them, but as I reached the nursery door, I heard my son's voice, as follows:

"So now I've got to go to the bathroom to fill it with water. 'Cause that's how my daddy wants it."

"Why?"

"Dunno. Same thing every night."

So that means - it means he

thinks it's me - I need these games! He goes through the rigmarole for my sake! This child isn't dumb, ladies and gentlemen, this child is weird!

Next day I drew him aside.

"Son," I said to him. "Daddy wants to stop all this nonsense with the cocoa. It was fun while it lasted, but it's not educational. Let's invent some new game, huh?"

This time he cried for two nights, and my wife, too, nearly lost her patience with me.

"If the child stops drinking his cocoa too," she warned me, "he'll just shrink to nothing."

So the show must go on. Sometimes my son calls out from the bathroom: "Ready? I'm coming with the water!" - and I go through my lines on cue: "Grrr,

am I cross, grrr, am I wild," and profound despair grips me. One time Amir was in bed with measles, so I went to the bathroom myself, filled the cup with water and drained it.

"Fooled you," my son's eyes sparkled with glee. "Fooled you!"

The other day he thought up a new variation on the old theme: he comes out of the bathroom with the muck and declaims my text himself: "Grrr, am I cross, grrr..." My brain reels.

"What the hell," I asked the woman, "doesn't he know he is talking - not I? Or does he think it's me talking when he does?"

"Yeah," said the little one, "but..."

Translated by Miriam Arad

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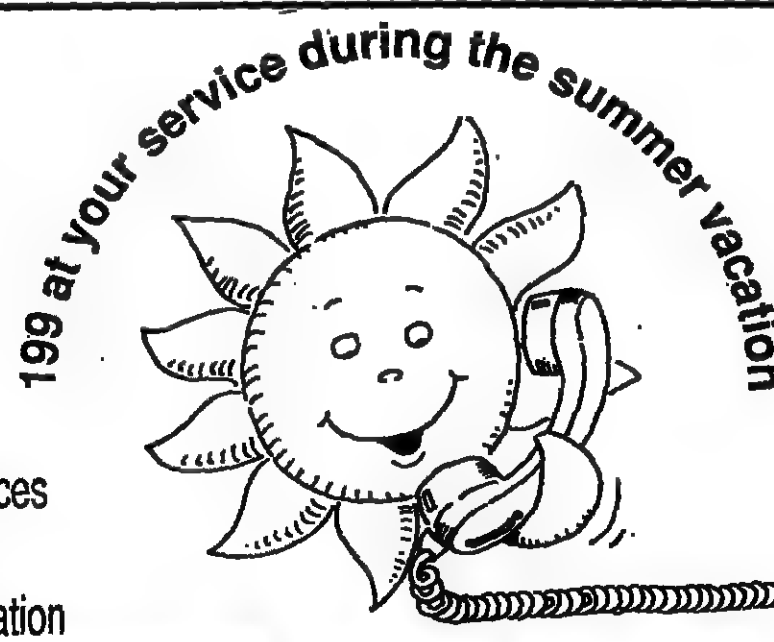
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US Congress ponders sports law changes

Concern that athletes routinely turn to courts to skirt disciplinary action

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan soap opera got the attention of Congress.

Now the nation's legislators want to take a closer look at — and possibly revise — the Amateur Sports Act, the law that governs the country's Olympic sports.

Gold-medal swimmers Donna De Varona and Nancy Hogshead, IOC member Anita DeFranz and USOC executive director Harvey Schiller were among the witnesses Thursday at a Capitol Hill hearing.

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, the author of the 16-year-old law, requested the hearings before the Senate Commerce Committee in the wake of the figure skating saga involving Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan last winter.

The concern is that athletes, such as Harding, could circumvent the law's review provisions and threaten costly court action to remain in the Games.

"That will be mentioned, I'm sure," US Olympic Committee spokesman Mike Moran said. "But there are broader issues to be discussed."

Since Congress enacted the legislation in 1978, the world of the Olympics — and American sports overall — has changed greatly.

Professional athletes now compete for gold medals. Women make up nearly half the Olympic field, and special events are staged for disabled athletes.

Colleges and municipal governments, faced with tight budgets, have scaled back or eliminated sports and recreation programs. The fight against doping, minuscule in the 1970s, has become a year-round

global battle. And athletes who feel their right to compete has been violated routinely turn to the courts.

"There have been issues that have emerged out of sports that are of concern to everyone," Moran said. "Senator Stevens and his colleagues want to see if the Amateur Sports Act is still the blueprint they originally intended."

The law gave the USOC power to "promote and coordinate amateur athletic activity in the US." It ended a long and bitter feud among the USOC, the Amateur Athletic Union and NCAA over who would control the athletes and teams who went to the Olympics, as well as other sports events.

Moran said a review of the act has been considered since 1991. But the effort accelerated after the attack on Kerrigan at the National Figure Skating Championships in Detroit last January and the inclusion of both her and Harding on the US team for the Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

The USOC became concerned that Harding was able to go around the law's grievance procedure by filing suit and remain on the team despite evidence that she was involved in the attack on Kerrigan.

Harding finished eighth in Lillehammer, Norway, and later pleaded guilty to conspiring to hinder the prosecution in the Kerrigan attack. She was placed on three years' probation and ordered to pay \$160,000 in fines and donations.

A text of USOC president LeRoy Walker's statement to the committee specifically mentioned "the controversial incidents related to our 1994 Olympic figure skating team."



RINGSIDE ATTRACTION — Tonya Harding, after her ban from amateur ice skating, escorts Art Barr, known as "The American Love Machine" before a wrestling match in Vancouver. (Reuter)

Croatians beat Greece, head for US shootout

TORONTO, Aug. 13 (Reuter) — The Croatian basketball team is winning with unrelenting passion and flair while it copes with unrelenting loss.

With a perfect 6-0 record after Friday's 81-55 victory over Greece to conclude the quarter-finals at the world basketball championship, the Croatians have no visible blemishes to their game, and the calculated artistry of their attack is a tribute to teamwork and cooperation.

If only life in their homeland bespoke such harmony.

"We are defending champions," said an incredulous Toni Kukoc, who starred for the undefeated Yugoslav team that rolled to a world title at Buenos Aires in 1990. "But I don't remember that championship."

Reminded that the greatest basketball moment of his since fragmented country was only four years ago, Kukoc responded, "Four years. A million lifetimes."

In the last horrific quadrennium, team captain Drazen Petrovic lost his life in a car accident. Power forward Stojan Vrankovic lost his town in a civil war.

Bitter ethnic strife at home also ended old friendships. Starting center Vlade Divac, one of two Serbs on that Yugoslavian team, no longer has anything to do with his former Croatian teammates, some of whom he still faces in the NBA.

Kukoc acknowledged that he does not expect his squad to contend with the US' so-called Dream Team II, a collection of the best NBA players who did participate at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

There, the US defeated Croatia 117-85 in the gold medal game. The teams are on a collision course for a gold medal rematch here today, provided Croatia handles Russia and the US ousts Greece as expected in last night's scheduled semifinals.

The final is scheduled to be shown live tonight on ITV (Channel 1) at 23:00.

US 111, Russia 94
Russian Sergei Belov told his team before their game against the US Dream Team II that their opponents weren't supermen, and to remember to provide an entertaining game for the fans.

They did — for about 25 minutes of the 40-minute contest between previously undefeated teams.

Shaquille O'Neal scored 21 points and Joe Dumars added 20 to lead the US to a victory over Russia after leading by as many as 24 points.

Thursday's results:
Australia 94, Puerto Rico 81

Canada 90, China 58

Friday's results:
Croatia 81, Greece 55

US 111, Russia 94

Last night's scheduled games:
Semifinals:
US vs. Greece

Russia vs. Croatia

Vancouver's NBA entry to be called 'Grizzlies'

VANCOUVER (AP) — The newest NBA expansion team will be known as the Vancouver Grizzlies and their logo will feature a crouching snarling bear with an outstretched front paw clutching a red basketball.

The name Grizzlies — large, ferocious brown bears native to western North America — surfaced after information was leaked last week hinting that the team would be called the Ravens, a bird also closely linked to West Coast native culture. The team colors are turquoise, bronze and black.

Vancouver, awarded an expansion franchise for the 1995-96 season, had originally chosen Mounties as the team's nickname. But problems with trademark registration made the name unworkable.

For sale: Debt-hobbled Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — For sale: Off-successful major league baseball team with excellent manager but average talent. Millions of dollars of accumulated debt. Price negotiable. Must remain in present location — for now.

The Pittsburgh Pirates, who claim they've lost \$60 million since 1985, put themselves up for sale last week. The city has six months to find a buyer willing to spend about \$85 million to keep them in Pittsburgh.

If a new buyer is not found by early next year, the team could be sold to out-of-town owners who could move the franchise to another city.

"Six months will be a challenge, but we're committed to keeping the Pirates in Pittsburgh," Mayor Tom Murphy said.

Rather than handling the sale themselves, the Pirates' public-private ownership consortium placed the burden of selling the team solely upon the city.

The city negotiated the right to sell as a means of protecting a \$20 million loan made to the consortium in 1985.

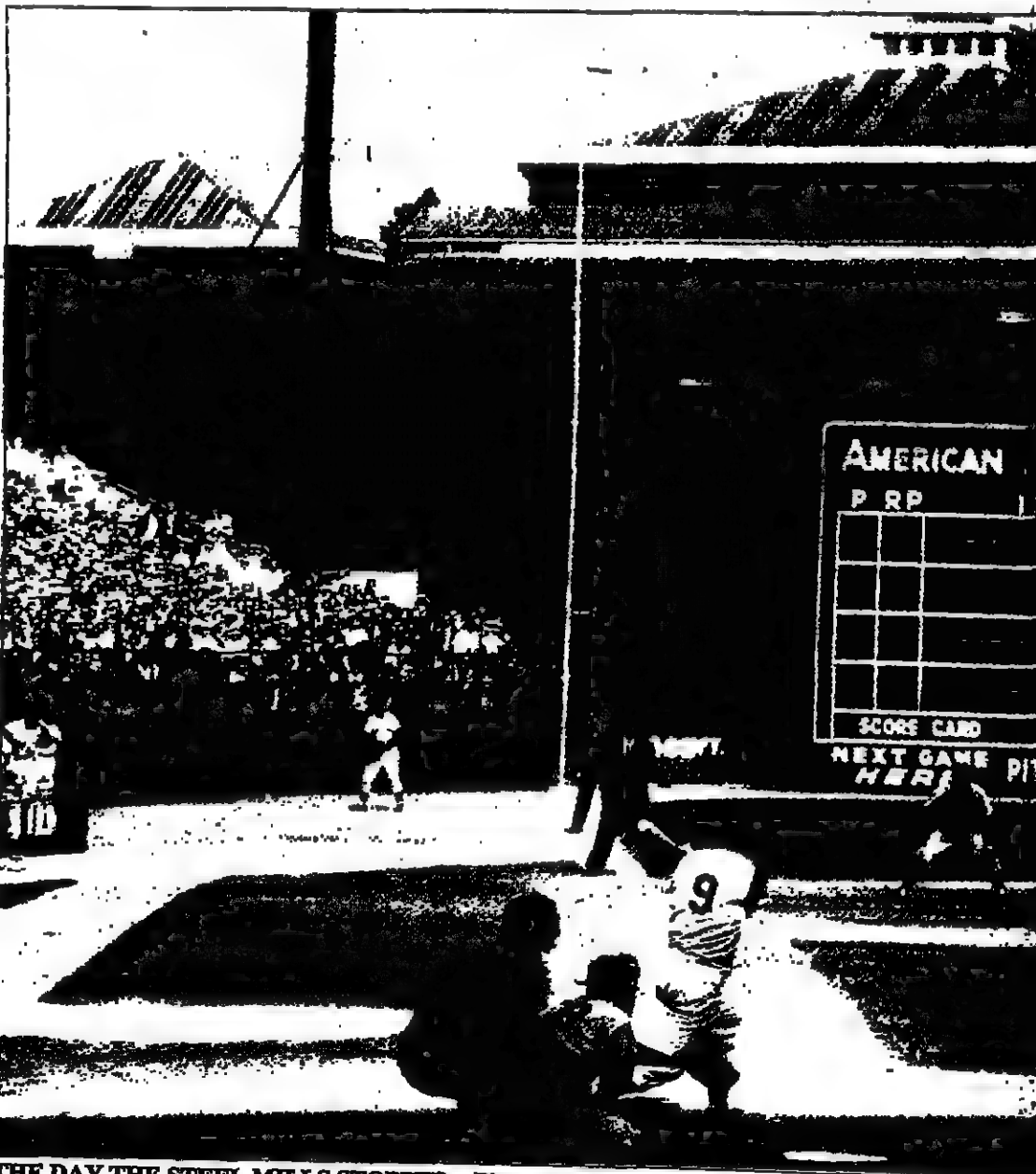
The tentative price tag is based upon the \$25 million owed the 10 owners. The price is negotiable because the new owners might elect to pay down the line of credit gradually, or negotiate part of the debt, Murphy said.

"It's very, very fluid what the value is," Murphy said.

Four to five potential buyers already have expressed interest in the team, one of baseball's oldest franchises. The frontrunner group is headed by former Baltimore Orioles president Larry Lucchino. Another is led by John J. Rigas, chairman of a large cable television firm.

The for-sale vote by the Pirates' board of directors was unexpected. Team president Mark Sauer had been working to avoid a sale by negotiating an \$8m loan from the city and a revised lease for Three Rivers Stadium.

But wary of assuming even more debt, the board voted to reject the new loan and lease and sell immediately.



THE DAY THE STEEL MILLS STOPPED — Pirates' Bill Mazeroski cracks ninth-inning home run at Forbes Field to win 1960 World Series against Yankees.

The Pirates are owned by six corporations — USX Corp., Westinghouse Electric Corp., Alcoa, PNC Bank Corp., Mellon Bank Corp. and PPG Industries Inc. — three individuals and Carnegie Mellon University. Several of the corporations, including USX and Alcoa, have been pressuring to get out of the baseball business. The team sports a proud history from Honus Wagner, the Waner brothers, the slugging Ralph Kiner, the incomparable Roberto Clement, culminating in World Series victories in 1960 and 1979.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS — Marty Glickman (l) and Sam Stoller on board the USS Manhattan en route to Berlin in July 1936.

Glickman: the runner whom Jesse Owens replaced

BERLIN (AP) — Nine years ago, Marty Glickman, New York Giants' long-time broadcaster, returned to Berlin's Olympic Stadium and was stunned.

He hadn't imagined that his painful memories of the 1936 Olympics still bit that deep.

Glickman had been dropped from the US 4,100-meter relay team during the Games to appease Adolf Hitler because he was Jewish. The legendary Jesse Owens replaced him and raced to his fourth gold medal.

"I came in and felt so much rage, I thought I was going to pass out — and I screamed out every cuss word I knew," Glickman said. "And that was 49 years after the event."

Glickman was again in Berlin, this time as the guest of the New York Giants who played the San Diego Chargers in the American Bowl yesterday.

Glickman, 77, was the play-by-play man on radio broadcasts of Giants' games for 23 years before retiring in 1992.

As Glickman returned to Olympic Stadium, which hasn't changed much since the Nazi era, his rage was tempered by sadness. In the last few years his good friend Owens has passed away, along with other stars of that 1936 Olympics like Ralph Metcalfe and the Finnish 5,000-meter champion, Gunnar Hoekett.

Glickman was inside the stadium when US coaches broke the news that he and fellow Jew Sam Stoller were being replaced on the relay team, which was regarded as a lock for the gold medal.

"The only way we could lose was to drop the baton,

everyone agreed," Glickman said.

Glickman and Stoller were the only Jews on the US track-and-field team which was dominating the games, chiefly because of its black athletes. But every time Owens or Metcalfe won, Hitler stormed out of the stadium.

The coaches said the Germans had secreted away some super runners for the event and they wanted to counter with the speed of Metcalfe and Owens, who alone won four gold medals.

"I piped in, 'Coach, world-class athletes have to compete against world-class athletes. They can't be that good,'" Glickman recalls.

Owens tried to decline, but neither man's protest changed anything. Glickman, just 18, vowed to come to the next Olympics and win every gold medal but World War II and marriage intervened.

He moved behind the microphone, voicing over 1,000 football games in his career. Although retired, he stays busy coaching aspiring broadcasters.

Glickman's hard feelings toward the Germans have mellowed since his first visit to Olympic Stadium in 1985. That was a trip to prepare for the 50th anniversary celebration of Owens' achievements.

"I didn't even drink any German beer, which I think is sensational," he laughed. "But times are different now."

Then he added wistfully: "But I didn't experience that run, I didn't experience that stick pass, I didn't feel that experience."

TODAY

CHANNEL 5
8:30 Bodies in motion 15:30 Max out 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 American games 17:20 Monday 17:45 Live opening of the English soccer season: Charity Cup match between Man Utd and Blackburn Rovers 20:00 World rugby 20:30 International clay 21:30 (to be announced) 22:00 American games 22:50 English soccer: Charity Cup match (pp)

PRIME SPORTS
8:00 Golf from Oklahoma 8:00 Sports magazine: bowling 9:30 Windsurfing 10:00 Live Indonesian Open badminton final 13:00 Chinese league soccer 15:00 Live Formula 1 racing from Hungary 17:00 International sports magazine 18:00 Live English Charity Cup soccer (pp) 20:00 Monday 21:30 Live golf from Oklahoma 1:00 Indonesian Open badminton

MONDAY AUGUST 15
CHANNEL 5
8:30 Bodies in motion 12:30 Highlights of Israeli basketball 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Max out 17:00 International clay 18:00 American games 19:00 School for sport athletics 20:30 ATP tennis this week 21:00 Argentinean league soccer 22:00 Highlights of Israeli basketball 23:00 American games 00:30 School for sport athletics

PRIME SPORTS
8:00 Golf from Oklahoma 8:00 Indonesian

Open badminton 11:00 Chinese league soccer 13:00 Aerobics 13:30 Talking baseball 14:00 Water sports magazine 15:00 Monday 15:30 Indonesian Open badminton final 17:00 Volleyball 18:00 Talking baseball 18:30 Formula 1 racing from Hungary 21:30 Water sports magazine 22:30 English Charity Cup soccer (pp) 23:00 Volleyball

TUESDAY AUGUST 16
CHANNEL 5
8:30 Bodies in motion 12:30 Top moments in Israeli basketball 14:30 School for sport athletics 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 ATP tennis this week 18:00 School for sport swimming and diving 20:30 Australian football 21:15 Table tennis 22:00 Top moments in Israeli basketball 23:00 American games 00:30 Argentinean league soccer 1:15 School for sport swimming and diving

PRIME SPORTS
8:00 European soccer show 8:30 Formula 1 9:30 Talking baseball 9:00 Monday 9:30 Indonesian Open badminton final 11:00 Athletics 13:00 Aerobics 13:30 Baseball 14:00 Baseball's greatest games 16:00 Australian Open golf 17:00 Volleyball 19:00 Baseball 19:30 European soccer show 20:30 Baseball's greatest games 22:30 Athletics 00:30 Volleyball

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17
CHANNEL 5
8:30 Bodies in motion 12:30 Top moments in Israeli basketball 14:30 School for sport

swimming and diving 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Max out 17:00 Table tennis 18:00 School for sport 18:30 (to be announced) 19:00 School for sport: wrestling 20:00 English soccer: Man moments in Israeli basketball 23:00 Top moments in Israeli basketball 23:00 American games 00:30 School for sport: wrestling

THURSDAY AUGUST 18
CHANNEL 5
8:30 Bodies in motion 12:30 Highlights of Israeli basketball 14:30 School for sport swimming and diving 16:00 Bodies in motion 16:30 Max out 17:00 American games 18:00 School for sport: wrestling 20:00 English soccer: Man moments in Israeli basketball 23:00 Top moments in Israeli basketball 23:00 American games 00:30 School for sport: wrestling

PRIME SPORTS
8:00 Volleyball 8:00 Lacrosse 8:30 Chinese league soccer 9:00 Tennis 11:00 Athletics 13:00 Aerobics 13:30 World of rugby 14:00 Blood, sweat and glory — sports magazine of rugby 18:30 Blood, sweat and glory — sports magazine 20:30 Soccer 21:00 Live horse racing 22:30 Athletics 00:30 Volleyball

Judge restores Middleweight's WBA title

PATERSON, NJ (AP) — A middleweight regained his World Boxing Association title Thursday, with a federal judge throwing the decisive punch.

The judge restored the title to John David Jackson, who had claimed the sanctioning body used paper to do what 31 boxers couldn't do in the ring.

US District Judge Maryanne Trump Barry granted Jackson a preliminary injunction, barring the WBA from recognizing anyone else as its middleweight champion.

She said a September trial would determine the case on the merits, but granted the injunction because there was a likely chance of success and Jackson would suffer irreparable harm without it.

The WBA stripped Jackson of his championship after he fought May 6 in Atlantic City. It told Jackson and his promoter they needed permission for the non-title 10-round fight.

"We found out that other champions did exactly what John David Jackson did and weren't stripped," Jackson's lawyer said.

Man stabs ex-wife, himself in murder-suicide attempt

A MAN and his ex-wife were taken to Wolfson Hospital for treatment of stab wounds yesterday after he apparently tried to kill her and then commit suicide.

The pair, although divorced recently, still lived together in their Holon apartment with their two children.

Yesterday at around 1 p.m., a fight broke out between them in their apartment as their children watched.

The man took a kitchen knife and stabbed his ex-wife all over her body before fleeing the apartment. A Magen David Adom ambulance took the woman, suffering from superficial stab wounds, to Holon's Wolfson Hospital for treatment. She was reported in satisfactory condition last night.

Two hours later, the man turned himself in to Holon police after having stabbed himself in the chest and stomach with the same kitchen knife. He told police he had tried to take his own life.

Police arrested him and took

RAINE MARCUS

him to Wolfson Hospital for treatment where he was also reported in satisfactory condition.

This was the second incident of domestic violence in the past few days. On Thursday, 26-year-old Eli Iden murdered his wife, Meirav, and then committed suicide with a licensed pistol.

The couple had only been married for a year, and family members said that Eli had fits of jealousy and would beat his wife. He refused to grant his wife a divorce and on the morning of the murder had told her he wanted to make peace.

In another stabbing incident, a known criminal turned up at Wolfson Hospital's emergency ward early yesterday suffering from severe stab wounds in his stomach. His condition was described as serious last night.

The 28-year-old Jaffa man told police he had been standing on the sidewalk when another man called his name and then stabbed him several times in the stomach.

Police said the motive was criminal, and the stabbing was probably over a drug deal.

A Jaffa club which was the scene of the murder of a 20-year-old man around a month ago was raided by narcotics squad detectives acting on a tip Friday night. Five young people including two soldiers were found in possession of Ecstasy and LSD pills.

Police had promised to close the El Mundo club following the fatal stabbing outside the discotheque last month, but have still not obtained a court order. Now, said police, they will do everything possible to close down the club.

Three employees of a Hod Hasharon psychiatric hospital were arrested yesterday for allegedly beating a 60-year-old patient there. The patient, who is mentally disturbed, had been brought to Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital late Friday night with bruises and broken ribs.

The three workers were arrested and are expected to appear in court this morning for a remand hearing.



Jewish and Arab children attending an Internus for Peace summer camp enjoy a swim at the Kibbutz Nahal Oz pool. (Israel Hadari)

Committee to hold emergency discussion on northern residents' security

DAVID RUDGE

THE interministerial committee on northern border settlements is to hold an urgent meeting today to discuss the shortage of security rooms in towns and villages along the northern border.

The meeting was called by Shimon Sheves, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, following an Israeli Radio report that dozens of homes were not considered eligible for security rooms, because of bureaucratic wrangles.

Residents of the Western Galilee moshav, hit during Hizbullah's Katyusha rocket attacks last weekend, maintained that dozens of homes had been classed as security risks, even though they were renovated with Housing Ministry funds several years ago to provide accommodation for new immigrant families and young couples.

A survey conducted to determine the number of security

rooms that needed to be constructed in the north eliminated the renovated homes as unsuitable.

According to residents, homes that had been constructed according to security specifications with reinforced concrete were also classed as ineligible, because such buildings were considered safe enough.

The residents, however, including the family whose home suffered a direct hit, noted that security rooms consisted of four solid walls of reinforced concrete, whereas even those homes built to security standards had windows which made them a risk.

A statement issued by Sheves' office said the meeting today would consider ways of resolving the problems relating to security rooms in confrontation line settlements and ensuring the safety of residents.

Pump faults cause water cut-offs for Nazareth citizens

DAVID RUDGE

WATER supplies to tens of thousands of Nazareth and Upper Nazareth residents were cut off or severely disrupted at the end of last week because of breakdowns in Mekorot's pumping systems.

The water company said that supplies of drinking water were restored yesterday, although farmers in the area would have to go without water until full repairs had been completed.

In the meantime, Mekorot has asked residents of both cities to conserve as much water as possible.

The Upper Nazareth Municipality mobilized fire engines and mobile tanks towed by "drafted" command vehicles from a nearby factory to deliver water supplies to residents in the worst affected areas.

At one stage, as many as 50,000 residents of the two cities were reported to be suffering from complete or partial cuts in water supplies.

Some residents of Upper Nazareth believed that the sudden cuts were the result of water agreements reached with Jordan. Deputy Mayor Ronen Flot said the city hall switchboard had been flooded with complaints from residents, even though there was absolutely no truth to the rumors.

The trouble began on Thursday when pumping equipment at one of the main wells supplying the Nazareth area broke down. Mekorot said the equipment at the station, near Kafr Ozir in the Beit Netofa Valley, had broken down completely and would take over two weeks to be replaced and fully repaired.

The breakdown caused disruptions in supplies of water to around 30 percent of consumers in Nazareth and Upper Nazareth.

The problems were further exacerbated on Friday afternoon when electricity supplies to another pumping station at Tzipori were cut for nearly two hours.

Supplies from this station were restored later and Mekorot said that by early yesterday there had been a full resumption to all residents of the two cities.

Nevertheless, Mekorot's spokesperson said supplies to farmers in the region would have to remain cut until repair work at the other well had been completed.

News report on AIDS among Ethiopian immigrants reaches the High Court

EVELYN GORDON and Itim

THE Ethiopian immigrant community must have the right to respond to Israel TV's broadcast about AIDS in the community, but the broadcast itself could not be stopped, the High Court of Justice ruled on Friday.

Following this ruling, an Ethiopian representative was invited to the Friday night Yoman Hashavua program to comment on its report.

The court was responding to a petition filed Friday by two groups active in the community. The petition had asked for an interim injunction against the broadcast.

In his petition, attorney Ranan Har-Zahav argued that the program would cause irreparable damage to the Ethiopian immigrants. Thanks to the previews for the broadcast, he said, most of the native Israelis whose children are participating in a camp at the Neveh Carmel caravan site have removed their children from the camp, and a group of Ethiopian children were banished from a Haifa beach by Israeli children.

Not only can other, similar events be expected if the program itself is broadcast, he said, but community leaders are afraid that it will cause many suicides.

Furthermore, said Har-Zahav, many of the statistics cited by the program appear to be

misleading, such as the datum that 350 of the 1,200 known AIDS carriers in Israel are Ethiopians. All the Ethiopians were systematically tested for AIDS, he said, but this is not true of any other community; native Israelis, for instance, are tested for AIDS only if an individual requests it. Therefore, he said, it is hardly surprising that the number of known Ethiopian carriers is so high.

However, government attorney Nili Arad insisted that the broadcast was actually meant to help the Ethiopians, by correcting some of the wild statements that have been made in newspapers and on the radio throughout the week. Furthermore, she said, a representative of the community will be invited to respond as part of the program.

Justice Dalia Dorner said she was not willing to issue an interim injunction.

"Not permitting a broadcast is a very extreme step," she said. "Because the issue of freedom of expression is so important to us... I am very afraid of it... Are you seriously suggesting that this court become a censor?"

However, she said, the petitioners should be allowed to have a representative of their

choice, rather than ITV's, respond.

Though neither the petitioners nor the state were happy with this solution - ITV said a response should be permitted only if it thought one was necessary - under heavy pressure from Dorner, both consented to this arrangement.

Meanwhile, Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban rejected claims by leaders of the Ethiopian immigrant community that the publicizing of the number of AIDS carriers in the community was part of a conspiracy to stem further immigration from Ethiopia.

"There are various elements who disagree with the decision to try to quickly bring here the Falashmura who are concentrated in the Joint Distribution Committee camp in Addis Ababa," he said. "However... I do not see any attempt by the Health Ministry or other bodies to conspire to hurt the community or the immigration of the Falashmura."

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh also denied any hostile intentions by his ministry, saying the ministry had not initiated publication of the figures.

"When reporters asked the Health Ministry the number, they were given the correct answer. There was no initiative on the part of the Health Ministry," he said.

Anti-Aircraft Forces get new commander

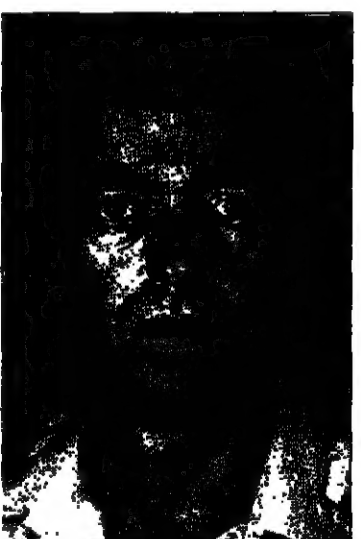
ALON PINKAS

COL. Gilad Ramot was appointed the new commander of the IDF Anti-Aircraft Forces on Friday, and was subsequently promoted to the rank of brigadier-general.

Ramot replaces Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Biran, who had served as OC Anti-Aircraft Forces since 1991 and is now retiring from active service. Ramot has served in various roles in the Anti-Aircraft Forces since 1968. He commanded a Hawk anti-aircraft missiles unit and later the force's central training school.

He holds a masters degree in air war studies from the French school of Anti-Aircraft.

In the IDF command structure, the Anti-Aircraft Forces are an integral part of the IAF, although in war, anti-aircraft units, especially the Vulcan 20mm units, are subordinate to armored divisions. After the Gulf War, the anti-



Brig.-Gen. Gilad Ramot

aircraft forces received Patriot missile batteries, thus enhancing their varied arsenal of weapons systems.

Gas masks can be replaced until year's end

ALON PINKAS

OVER 60,000 families who had received written permits to replace their gas mask kits at "a later date," will be able to do so until December, the army's Home Front Command has announced.

When pressure began building up on distribution centers in May, the IDF issued permits to collect the new kits between August 14-25 instead. The Home Front Command then discovered that over 60,000 such permits were given, each entitling a whole family to replace its kits. To avoid scenes of near hysteria, such as occurred at numerous distribution sites in May, the IDF decided to extend the current distribution operation until December 29th.

The army has set up an information hotline at (08) 277777.

Kibbutzim to give land, stock toward new debt arrangement

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE kibbutzim will contribute nearly NIS 1 billion worth of land towards covering the new NIS 5.8 billion kibbutz debt arrangement, the Treasury reported Friday.

In addition, 50 percent of Tnuva, Hamaashbir Lazarchan and 10 percent of kibbutz industries registered on the stock market will be transferred to the government and the commercial banks, the announcement said.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, was presented late Thursday with a follow-up kibbutz debt arrangement proposal by a committee headed by accounting expert Yitzhak Swary.

The proposal focuses primarily on 70 kibbutzim whose deficits total NIS 4.5b. The arrangement would deal with NIS 3.7b. of that debt, as well as with the NIS 2.1b. owed by another 32 kibbutzim that cannot to pay back their debts. The arrangement does not include the 111 kibbutzim involved in the 1989 debt arrangement, which cost NIS 4.5b.

The Treasury reported that under the debt repayment conditions that the kibbutzim are asking for, which would lower interest payments, accelerated depreciation rates and would cover their national insurance obligations, the cost of the pro-

posed arrangement would balloon to NIS 8b.

The arrangement would also help cover the NIS 450 million debt of regional kibbutz organizations and would erase NIS 600m. from the debt of newer kibbutzim, which were not included in the first arrangement.

The 32 kibbutzim in particularly bad financial health will be required to adopt recovery programs during a four-year transition period. Should they achieve economic viability, they will be entitled to the same financial assistance arrangements that will be granted to the better-off kibbutzim.

The committee recommends not to change the debt repayment conditions established in the first arrangement. They also suggest the establishment of a investment fund of NIS 300m., to be financed by the kibbutzim, private investors and the government.

The financial assets of the 70 better-off kibbutzim, estimated at NIS 400m., will not be attached so that they will have working capital to run.

According to the Treasury, the proposed figures are general. The specific requirements of each kibbutz will be addressed individually.

Cabinet discusses compensation plan for rezoned farm lands

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet today is expected to approve Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's compromise proposal setting compensation levels for agricultural lands leased to farmers that are rezoned for residential, commercial or industrial use.

Rabin proposes that farmers will receive 27 percent of the land's sale value in the center of the country, while those in development zone B will be paid 28% and those in development zone A, 29%.

The farmers will not be entitled to any additional compensation and their agreement to the rezoning will not be required.

The proposal will also require farmers to pay an improvement tax on agricultural land they convert to other commercial uses.

It sets the compensation to businesses and citrus growers at half the rate for farmers in the country's center.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Murdered restaurateur buried

Amnon Bahashian, the underworld restaurateur killed on Wednesday night in downtown Tel Aviv, was buried on Friday afternoon in the Herzliya cemetery.

Police secretly filmed the event, which was attended by many of Bahashian's friends and relatives. No suspects have been arrested in the case. Police suspect Bahashian was killed by a hit man over a dispute with his ex-business partners from when he lived in Los Angeles.

The FBI reportedly told police here that Bahashian was the leader of an Israeli Mafia gang in the US. Itim

Suspect in cabbie's murder charged

Nissim Haim, 33, of Rehovot, was charged in Tel Aviv District Court on Friday with the murder of Yavne taxi driver Shimon Amsalem in June.

Haim allegedly stole his uncle's gun and then made contact with Amsalem regarding a deal to sell him stolen cigarettes for NIS 7,500, according to the indictment.

On June 25, Amsalem, 38, traveled to the meeting point in an orange grove with \$1,000. When he arrived, Haim allegedly shot him and stole his cash, a gold necklace and bracelet.

Police asked the court to remand him until trial, and the judge delayed the continuation of the hearing until August 22. Itim

Arab groups condemn 'family honor' murders

Several Arab organizations on Friday published a joint declaration condemning the phenomenon of "family honor" killings.

The declaration, entitled "Enough With Silence," condemned the proliferation of family honor murders such as those carried out in Kafr Rama in the Western Galilee. "Silence to such murders is the reason for their continuation," it said.

The Arab groups included political organizations such as the Movement for Equality and feminist groups. The declaration was signed by 208 professionals in the social sciences. Itim

Dolphin found dead on Acre beach

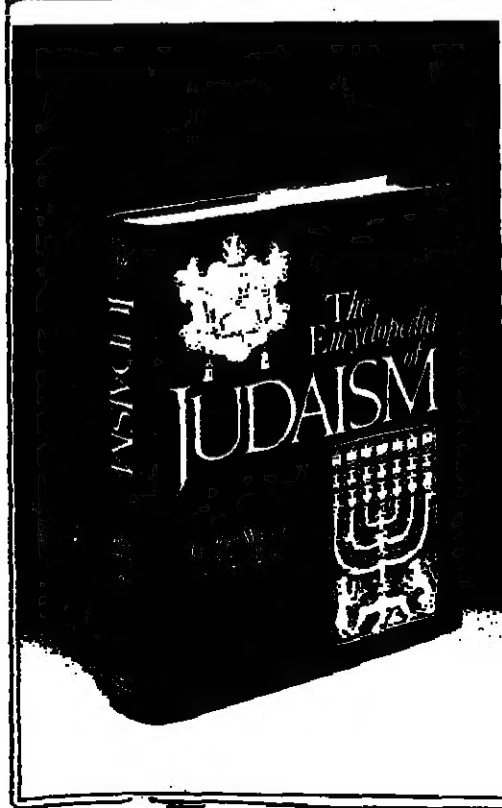
A three-meter-long dolphin washed up on one of Acre's southern beaches yesterday morning and died shortly afterwards.

Security personnel conducting routine searches on the beach discovered the animal stuck between jagged rocks and struggling to release himself. The two men went to alert a rescue team, but by the time they returned the dolphin had died.

Apparently the dolphin had already been sited off the coast of the Western Galilee last week and near Acre on Friday. The cause of death is being investigated, but it is believed that he misnavigated and became separated from his group of dolphins. Itim

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Chance game were the jack of spades, queen of hearts, nine of diamonds and nine of clubs.



The first new English-language, one volume encyclopedia of Judaism to be issued in more than 20 years. More than 70 authorities have been commissioned by Geoffrey Wigoder, editor-in-chief of Encyclopaedia Judaica, to contribute over 1000 illuminating articles. A vast spectrum of topics are covered: contemporary Jewish issues, customs and traditions of Jewish communities throughout the world. Elaborate cross-referencing and a thorough index guide the reader to subjects that may not have their own entry. Magnificently illustrated with nearly 300 pictures of synagogues, Judaica, manuscripts, and archeological finds. Its openness enables this work to enrich all strands of Judaism and academic disciplines. While the scholarship is authoritative, it is not for experts alone, the material is readily accessible to a popular audience making this work an ideal reference book for every Jewish home and library as well as non-Jews who wish to gain a clearer understanding of Judaism. 768 pp. including index.

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